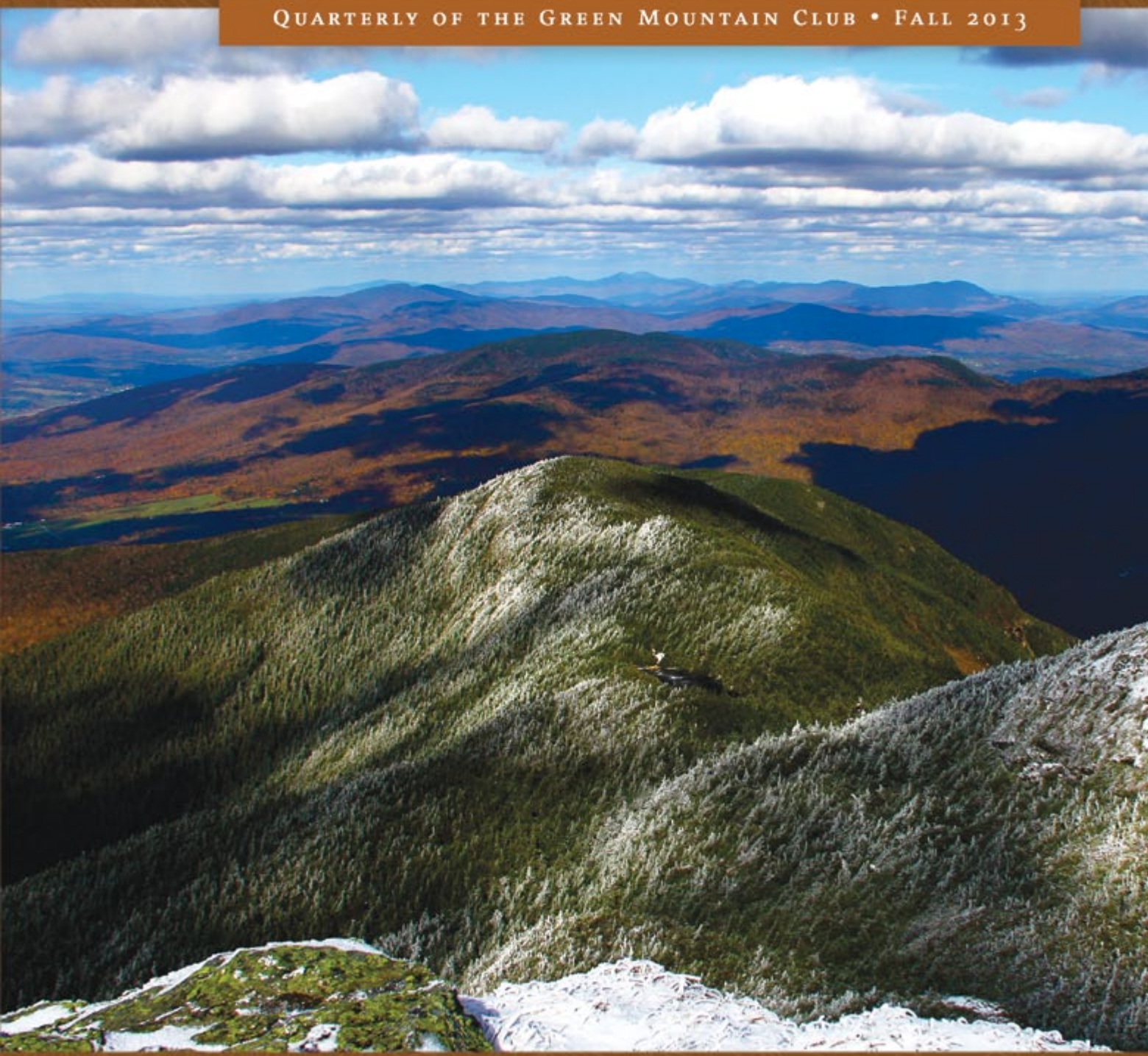
Long Trail NEWS

Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club • Fall 2013



Long Trail NEWS

The mission of the Green Mountain Club is to make the Vermont mountains play a larger part in the life of the people by protecting and maintaining the Long Trail System and fostering, through education, the stewardship of Vermont's hiking trails and mountains.

Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club

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Cover Photo: View north from the Chin on Mount Mansfield, courtesy of Quinn Keating, Reel Vermont Photography

ABM TURCOTTE

Corliss Camp on the Long Trail

CONTENTS

Fall 2013, Volume 73, No.3

Features

6 / GMC Annual Meeting: A Long Trail and a Long Tradtion
By Joe Sikowitz

8 / A Privy is a Privy is a Privy…or is it? To Pee or Not to Pee
By Lee Allen

11 / Add a Page to the Atlas of Vermont Life
By Jen Matteis

12 / A View of Ourselves: Hudson River School Artists Paint the Green Hills
By John Geeza

Departments

3 / From the President
14–15 / Volunteers
16–20 / Trail Mix
21 / Field Notes
22–23 / Sections
24–25 / GMC Outdoor Programs
26 / Board Report
27–28 / Outings Calendar
30–31 / Journey's End

Working Together for the Betterment of the Trail

The Green Mountain Club had a fantastic 103rd Annual Meeting at Stratton due to the collaborative efforts of the five southern GMC sections: Manchester, Bennington, Brattleboro, Connecticut, and Worcester. They provided an outstanding location, hikes for everyone's interests and abilities, a terrific venue and tasty food. Thank all of you for your hard work.

As I complete the first year of my three-year term as president of the Green Mountain Club, I am still awed by the dedication, commitment and energy of our GMC family. Whether in trail-related work or in time and skills on a committee, much of what we celebrate is our ability to collaborate, listen and respect each other's opinions. We don't always agree, but we generally find ways to achieve consensus for the betterment of the trail and the health of the club. That is quite a feat when you consider the number of active volunteers—well over a thousand!

As many of you know, I have spent my professional years in the education field. The focus and heart of all of my work—whether working with kids with disabilities and their families, or working on a trail or a budget issue—is to listen to and respect other perspectives, and to find common ground. I believe GMC members generally collaborate very well this way, and it is that spirit that drew me to become an active member. Please don't get me wrong; there are bumps in the road along the way, often strong disagreement and diverse perspectives—but in the end, we do seem to find that sometimes elusive common ground. If only Congress could manage that.

As an at-large member for many years, I was not involved in club activities. The invitation to become a member of the newly formed Northeast Kingdom Section (NEK) changed the direction of my life. I suddenly found myself with folks who shared my passion for hiking and who were as excited as I was to develop a new trail system in an area with no foot trails, from the ground up. The idea was so compelling. Innovative NEK Section members operated as a team to develop leadership, solve problems, and provide expertise. Nobody was afraid to get out into the remote woods in the Northeast Kingdom to do the hard and often dirty work of not just trail maintenance but trail building. It was obvious they cared about each other as individuals, and I truly believe that spirit is replicated throughout all of the GMC sections and at-large members.

I see the same principles in play with our staff, volunteers, and friends and colleagues at the U.S. Forest Service, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Even in the face of dwindling fiscal resources we continue to strive to work together in a positive, respectful and cooperative manner. It ain't always easy, but we make it work, and always with the end in mind: the trail.

I spent five days this summer participating in a training session for schools in Killington. One evening some of us decided we needed a break, so I suggested a visit to the Thundering Falls boardwalk on the Appalachian Trail, just fifteen minutes down the road. None of the group had been there before, though two of them lived close by. It was evening, the sun was going down below misty clouds, birds were singing, and a deer was drinking from Kent Brook—the same brook that during Tropical Storm Irene destroyed a section of the now repaired boardwalk. The setting was stunning, with beautiful wild irises in full bloom on both sides of the boardwalk. The air was hushed, the breeze gentle. The mood was one of enchantment. It was a moment I will not forget. This special place is an example and reminder of how we can overcome misfortune by working together.

And finally: Welcome fall! It is arguably the most beautiful season on the trail. While the leaves are in full color and the days are cooler (and the trails are hopefully dry), I encourage you to go hiking!

—Jean Haigh, President

HOWARD MUSCOTT

– The Gift of the Mountains –

"In this world of uncompromising realities, always urgent and sometimes grim, whatever will take a man out of himself is to be cherished. This is the message of the mountains. Theirs is the power to quicken imagination, to restore perspective, to lift the spirits of men along with their bodies, to spread before their vision a broader view of the world even as their eyes encompass new horizons. This is their offering. There can be no greater gift to mankind."

—Walter Collins O'Kane,
Trails and Summits of the Green Mountains, 1926

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Mountain Views

Beyond Vermont

I was pleasantly surprised to see in the summer 2013 issue of *Long Trail News* an article that took us beyond the borders of Vermont. I am referring to your piece on cairns, which featured photography from Maine, New York and Vermont. First and foremost, GMC members are hikers, and their journeys are not confined to Vermont, however much they love hiking in the Green Mountain State. My wife and I are no exceptions, having hiked in neighboring states as well as Europe and Great Britain. I would like to read about the adventures of others wherever they take place, and I would like to share with readers some of my own experiences.

Including the occasional article from beyond Vermont will not diminish the *Long Trail News*, but will give it added depth and richness. Certainly the focus should remain the Long Trail and Vermont hiking generally, but a bit of broadening of content might make a very good publication even better.

–Wayne Davies
Waitsfield, VT

Not too Old to Climb Mountains

It seems that, after hiking in diverse areas of the U.S., Canada, Seychelles Islands and other areas, my hiking days are coming to termination at the age of eighty-four!

End-to-end Appalachian Trail hikers at Cowart Gap in North Georgia a year ago (May 2012) told me I was too old to be climbing mountains. They did not realize I was a native of the state of Vermont (August 1928-September 1952, with two years in U.S. Navy) and would climb mountains as long as I was alive (well—almost). I added two years to my age of eighty-three at the time and told them: "Man alive, I am eighty-five and I am still alive!" They decided perhaps I was not too old to be climbing mountains! I must admit in passing that I had originally planned six miles in the mountains that day, but had to quit at four. I did not admit that to the group at Cowart Gap.

–Graydon Kingsland
Clemson, SC

Memories from a Bourn Pond Caretaker

I enjoyed reading the article about the 1973-1974 Stratton Pond caretakers (See "Trail Tales", summer 2013 LTN).

I was the Bourn Pond caretaker in 1976. On my one day off per week I hiked two and half miles over to Stratton Pond, then hiked another two and a half miles with the caretakers (Jeb and George) out to their car at the Stratton Mountain ski area. Then we drove to Manchester Center, got our groceries and lunch, and washed our clothes.

As I recall, there was a shower in a maintenance building at the ski area we were allowed to use. On the return trip we hiked in to Stratton Pond, then Jeb or George gave me a lift across the pond in their canoe, and I walked two and a half miles back to Bourn Pond with a full pack. A long day!

–Jim Highsaw
Catonsville, MD

Corrections

The article "The Annual Election of General Directors" in the 2013 spring *Long Trail News* indicated that Wayne Krevetski was a past GMC board member. Wayne is a past board member and Vice President of the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association. He was elected to the GMC board this summer.

In the same issue, "Great Recreational Opportunities Unified People Share on the Long Trail" misidentified Scott O'Neil as director of outdoor programs at Williams College. Scott Lewis is the director of outdoor programs at Williams College.

Long Trail News **welcomes your comments.**
Letters received may be edited for length and clarity. GMC reserves the right to decline to publish those considered inappropriate. Not all letters may be published.

Send to: Jocelyn Hebert, jhebert@greenmountainclub.org or Letters to the Editor, GMC, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677.

KIM ROSENBAUM

Bourn Pond

GMC PHOTO CONTEST

Eighty-five years ago in 1928, Mortimer R. Proctor, the only two-time GMC president—who was also Vermont's 66th governor—sponsored our first photo contest!

What are the merits of a prize winning photograph in the GMC's modern day amateur digital photo contest? Judges will look for technical quality and composition but also the photographer's ability to capture the essence of life on Vermont's trails, unexpected or rare moments in our wilderness spaces, and both calming and tempestuous landscape scenes.

The earliest actual photo contest announcement we have archived is from the *Long Trail News, Vol. 2., Rutland Vermont, June, 1929. No. 3.* This year, just for fun, we'll use the same classes:

Class A *will consist of pictures of the Trail or its camps or of trail life; in short pictures that illustrate the Trail itself.* (Hikers, Shelters and Trail Scenes)

Class B *will consist of pictures taken from the Trail or its camps and while they may include camp or trail in the picture, the composition should illustrate the rewards of trail life, especially the beautiful mountain views.* (Mountains, Forests, Streams, Ponds, Flora and Fauna)

The Grand Prize, *which may be selected from either of these classes, will be chosen for its worth as illustrative material that is supremely worthy for use in the Club publications (a) stimulating interest in the Long Trail, its beauties, and the joys of life thereon, and (b) making other people want to experience what the contestant has so obviously enjoyed.*

Prizes:

Grand Prize: Choice of two nights at GMC's Wheeler Pond Camps in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom or a $100 gift certificate in GMC's Visitor Center Store. The grand prize photograph will be featured in a 2014 issue of the *Long Trail News.*

First Prize in each category: Hooded sweatshirt with *Green Mountain Club, Hike Vermont!* design on the front, and the full color GMC logo on sleeve or the club's centennial coffee table book, *A Century in the Mountains: Celebrating Vermont's Long Trail.*

Honorable Mention: Eight worthy entrants will receive the recently updated, pocket size *Mt. Mansfield and the Worcester Range Hiking Trail Map.*

Photo requirements:

1. High resolution digital photos.
   All images must be at least 2 MB minimum, in jpg or tiff format, on a CD. Enter up to five images per class.
2. Information about the photos: photographer, date, location, story behind the photo

How to enter:

A CD should be mailed or delivered in person to Jocelyn Hebert, Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Waterbury Center, VT 05677. Please include your name, e-mail and postal address, and phone number with submission. All entries must be received by December 31, 2013.

By entering the contest, entrants grant GMC a royalty-free, non-exclusive license to display, distribute, and reproduce the entries, in whole or in part, for any GMC purpose, including, but not limited to, GMC publications, merchandise, and website. Any photograph reproduced in GMC publications will include a photographer credit. GMC will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such uses. Professional photographers and GMC staff are not eligible to enter. Decisions of the judges will be final.

PHOTOS TO LEFT: Prize-winning images from the 1928 and 1929 GMC photo contests.

GMC Annual Meeting

A Long Trail and a Long Tradition

By Joe Sikowitz

PHOTOS BY JOCELYN HEBERT

Stratton Mountain, where James P. Taylor first envisioned the Long Trail, loomed above the Green Mountain Club's 103rd Annual Meeting on June 8. Co-hosted by GMC's five southernmost sections—Connecticut, Worcester, Brattleboro, Bennington, and Manchester—club members gathered at the Inn at Stratton Mountain to continue to "make the Vermont mountains play a larger part in the life of the people," as our mission states.

Legendary GMC caretakers, Hugh and Jeanne Joudry, treated Friday evening attendees to a glimpse of their time on Stratton Mountain in *Life on the Summit and the Tower, Then and Now*. The Joudry's have been caretakers on Stratton since the 1960s, and have witnessed many changes over the years, including increases in the number of thru-hikers, as well as changes to the size of their cabin. The couple started living on Stratton as part of the U.S. Forest Service's fire watch program, and has continued on as GMC caretakers up to the present day. The experiences depicted in their slides mirrored the changes to the Long Trail over time, and inspired everyone with the legacy that they have played a large part in preserving.

Those who woke up early enough the next morning were lucky to be able to take a walk in the woods with Lee Allen, an expert birder. Lee delighted the group by identifying birds by sight and sound, and discussed the many bird varieties found in the Southern Vermont region. Later in the weekend, Lee and a group of GMC hikers, spotted and were able to identify a Bicknell Thrush on Stratton Mountain. In addition to his bird expertise, Lee's roots run deep in Stratton's history, having been one of the two original caretakers at Stratton Pond in 1973 and 1974.

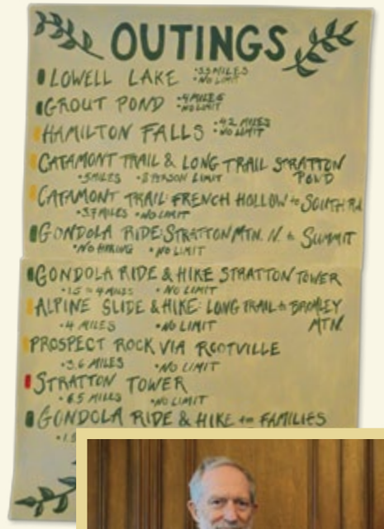
After the bird walk and breakfast, the meeting was officially underway with a call to order by President Jean Haigh. Attendees were then welcomed by Sky Foulkes of Stratton Mountain Resort, and listened to reports from officers of the Board of Directors and GMC Executive Director Will Wiquist. Following their updates, each section gave a brief summary of the past year's activities, and then it was onto the awards. **Dick Andrews and Walter Pomroy both received president's awards, while Mary Lou Recor and Pete Richardson became honorary life members.** The dedication that all four award recipients have demonstrated during their time as club members was apparent in the biography that Jean read for each of them.

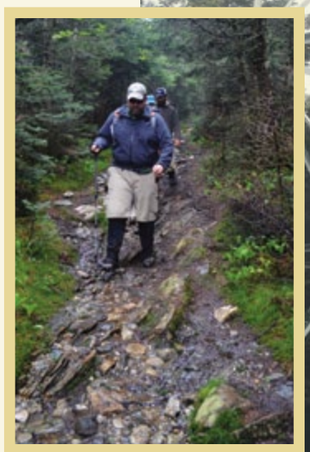
After honoring the service of those who have been leaders in the club for many years, the torch was extended to a new group of leaders including Millie Mugica, Sheri Larsen, and Wayne Krevetski. All three became new members of the Board of Directors. After that, GMC staff members Will Wiquist and Dave Hardy gave presentations about the Bolton Nordic Conservation Project and the Tropical Storm Irene recovery efforts. Matt Wels, lead bridge builder for the Winooski Footbridge stepped forward to update everyone on the progress and timeline for breaking ground on the new bridge. President Jean Haigh discussed the Unknown Pond project and former president Marge Fish talked about the future of the Bromley Mountain Tower. With that, the Annual Meeting came to a close and the quarterly Board of Directors meeting began. Meanwhile, just in time for the eleven scheduled hikes, the clouds parted and revealed the beautiful Vermont skyline that we all know and love. Each hike went off without a hitch, with participants enjoying the sights while managing to stay dry.

After a great hike there is nothing better than a nice drink with some of your buddies. Luckily for annual meeting attendees, Long Trail Brewing provided free beer during the pre-dinner reception along with the wine and soda provided by the Inn at Stratton. After the drinks and socializing, everyone ate a protein-filled, hiker's meal of hamburgers and hotdogs, topped off with apple cobbler for dessert. It turned out though that the real treat for the evening was to come from Dave Lacy, the Green Mountain National Forest archaeologist.

The meeting ended the way it began—with a tour of the Long Trail's past. This time Dave took enthralled presentation goers on a tour of the Long Trail's historical sites, some dating back to the indigenous peoples of Vermont. Whether it was a mossy mound of rocks that may have been a burial site, a plot of land that was a farmer's house, or the place that someone made stone tools thousands of years ago, Dave showed everyone something new. Members got to see the dynamic nature of the history of the Green Mountains and the people who have inhabited them.

A special thank you goes to the volunteers from the Connecticut, Worcester, Brattleboro, Bennington, and Manchester Sections who led hikes, staffed tables, and otherwise contributed to the success of the meeting. It would not have happened without them.


OUTINGS
LOWELL LAKE
GROUT POND
HAMILTON FALLS
CATAMOUNT TRAIL & LONG TRAIL STRATTON POND
CATAMOUNT TRAIL FRENCH HOLLOW to SOUTH Rd
GONDOLA RIDE: STRATTON MTN. N. to SUMMIT
GONDOLA RIDE & HIKE STRATTON TOWER
ALPINE SLIDE & HIKE: LONG TRAIL to BROMLEY MTN
PROSPECT ROCK VIA RICOTVILLE
STRATTON TOWER
GONDOLA RIDE & HIKE for FAMILIES



BELOW FROM TOP, LEFT: List of hiking options

President's Award winners: Dick Andrews (left), GMC President Jean Haigh, Walter Pomroy

Rich Windish hiking Stratton Ridge Trail

Group outing to Stratton fire tower

To Pee or Not to Pee

By Lee Allen

The Long Trail and Appalachian Trail in Vermont are well known for the large number and varied design of their overnight facilities. Fortunately, the Green Mountain Club can never be accused of using a cookie-cutter design for anything, so where there are shelters and tenting sites, there are always diverse and unique outhouses. However, my relationship with outhouses began long before I ever set foot on the Long Trail.

As a young child in the late 1950s, I visited my paternal grandparents in Horry County, South Carolina. My grandparents lived in a much more rural section of the county than Myrtle Beach, in a house without indoor plumbing. Hence my first early morning visit to an outhouse took place with my father in tow. It was pretty scary. Snakes, spiders, and who knows what else lurked under the seat. I really didn't want to fall in.

Thru-hiking the Long Trail in 1972 considerably broadened my experience with outhouses. But it wasn't until Preston Bristow (later to become president of the GMC) and I were caretakers at Stratton Pond during the summer of 1973 that I really got up close and personal with outhouses. The 1970s backpacking boom was on, at times there were several hundred people camped at that the pond, and every outhouse there was overfull. Preston and I augmented our college educations learning just how explosively offensive a mound of excrement rising above the ground could be once an outhouse was lifted from it for relocation. Some structures were beyond re-use, so we also built our share of new ones.

So for me outhouses became, and continue to be, a significant focus of interest. Yes, I am one of those grown-ups who never outgrew their juvenile fascination with everything related to poop.

One factor that has increased the variety of outhouse designs is advances in backcountry waste management in recent years. Although outhouses have always come in many sizes and shapes, outhouse technology on the Long and Appalachian Trails remained essentially unchanged for decades—a small box, sometimes enclosed by a structure, sometimes not, placed over a hole in the ground where all manners of waste were to be deposited. With the advent of the surge in backpacking during the 1970s, hordes of hikers and campers began to overtax the existing outhouse infrastructure. Outhouse holes were filling faster than new ones could be dug. Decaying white paper flagging became an all too common sight at many shelters. Shallow soils at higher elevation sites further compounded the problem, because all suitable outhouse sites were soon used, if in fact suitable sites actually ever existed.

Enter the U.S. Forest Service and Dr. Ray Leonard (yes, the skipper of the *Satori*, the 32-foot sailboat that rode out the "perfect storm" in 1991). Working for the Forest Service, Leonard experimented with Clivus Multrum composting toilets at Butler and Taft Lodges on the Long Trail in the summer of 1977. It did not take long (actually, less than one summer!) to realize that the Clivus Multrum, designed for sheltered and heated indoor spaces, would not work.

Fortunately, the concept of composting was promising enough that further experimentation led to the development of the first batch-bin composting outhouses in 1970. Especially suitable for high-use sites, these now compost waste at nineteen sites in Vermont.

Later, GMC's Dick Andrews designed the comparatively low-cost and low-tech moldering privy. The first one was installed in 1997 at the former Little Rock Pond Shelter at the north end of the pond (now replaced by a larger shelter at the south end of the pond). Moldering privies are now in use at seven sites on the Long and Appalachian trails in Vermont today. Moldering privies are also in use at dozens of sites on the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine, and at other sites in the White Mountain National Forest.

Composting outhouses are not without challenges. They need to be fed. Composting bin outhouses require lots of coarse bark mulch as a bulking agent to be mixed with human waste; moldering privies need a supply of lighter wood shavings. Consequently, GMC volunteers, caretakers and other seasonal field staff backpack tons (literally tons) of bark and wood shavings into our backcountry sites each year. In addition, composting bin outhouses typically need to be serviced at least twice a year.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Paddling outhouse on a raft across Stratton Pond, Primitive outhouse at Stratton Pond, Building 1973 Stratton Pond caretaker outhouse

Composting has several effects on outhouse design that affect appearance. Moldering privies are elevated a foot to three feet above ground on ventilated wood cribbing composting chambers. Bin composting outhouses are lower, but they sit next to several plastic containers for waste storage, a large tub for composting runs, an assortment of shovels and other tools, and a covered platform where compost rests a year or so before being spread on the forest floor or buried.

As an aside, these comparatively new technologies mean the hiker is faced with the challenge of knowing whether to pee or not to pee in the outhouse. Urine increases the stench from an old fashioned pit privy, so users are asked to pee in the woods. They are asked to do the same at bin composting outhouses for a different reason: urine vastly increases the amount of bark mulch needed to absorb liquid, creating much more work for volunteers and staff. Moldering privies actually need the moisture provided by urine, so peeing is welcomed there. Thankfully, GMC has posted helpful signs at most outhouse locations indicating where peeing is encouraged (moldering privies) and discouraged (pit privies and bin composters).

So outhouse technology can affect how a privy looks as well as how it works, but never fear: ingenuity and creativity in designing outhouses will never fade in the Green Mountain Club.

–More privy information on next page

Batch-Bin

Pit

Moldering

Beyond-the-Bin

Pit

Moldering

Batch-Bin/Beyond-the-Bin (BTB) Composting Privies

In high-use areas hikers may find batch-bin composting privies, or an upgraded version called a beyond-the-bin (BTB) composting privy. This technology has been used in northern New England since the hiking boom of the 1970s. Each privy site has steel or plastic collecting bins and wooden drying racks. Hikers are asked not to urinate in these privies, because it creates unpleasant odors and hampers the composting process by making it too wet. Users also are asked to drop a handful of the provided hardwood bark mulch into the toilet after each use.

The batch-bin system requires a caretaker to empty a collector under the seat into storage cans. When the cans are full, the waste is mixed with more bark mulch. The mulch absorbs water, reduces odors, and provides carbon for composting at high temperatures. After four to six weeks, with periodic turning by the caretaker, the compost is moved to a drying rack, where it cures for up to a year. Then it can be used to help absorb water in future composting runs, or be added to the forest floor.

BTB systems have been placed at sites with many day hikers, who use a toilet primarily as a urinal. The modification adds a strainer in the collector under the seat to separate liquid, which flows through a hose to a filter barrel, substantially reducing the amount of bark mulch required.

—Pete Antos-Ketcham,
Director of Lands and Facilities Management

Moldering Privies

Moldering is the slow decomposition of organic material in the presence of air. There is no significant temperature increase, so disease organisms are not killed by heat during the moldering of human waste. Nevertheless, worms and micro-organisms consume and compete with pathogens, reducing their prevalence to levels commonly found in topsoil.

In a moldering privy, waste accumulates in a screened, ventilated chamber below the toilet seat. Users are asked to add a handful of wood shavings after each use. Adding wood shavings prevents the pile from compacting into an airtight mass. It also supplies carbon, necessary because human waste has too little carbon to compost properly. The pile needs water, too, which urine supplies. It percolates slowly down through the pile, some evaporating and the rest being treated before soaking into soil.

When the chamber is full, which may take years if use is low, the privy shelter is moved to another chamber, usually next to the first. The full chamber is topped by a layer of shavings, screened to keep rodents out, and partially covered to let rain moisten but not drown it. When the second chamber fills, compost in the first one is ready to spread or bury.

—Dick Andrews,
moldering privy inventor

Lee Allen packing wood shavings

To learn more about backcountry sanitation, check out the *Backcountry Sanitation Manual*, created by the Green Mountain Club and Appalachian Trail Conservancy, available at the conservancy's training and resources Web page, www.appalachiantrail.org/trainingandresources.

JOHN PREDOM

Add a Page to the Atlas of Vermont Life

By Jen Matteis

Ever snapped a photo of a flower, beetle, or bird without knowing what it was? Now that photo can be added to the online database iNaturalist.org, where experts browse photos and help pin down IDs. Once corroborated, the sighting goes into the Atlas of Vermont Life—an ambitious project to log every bat, bee, bird, and other breathing or growing thing in Vermont.

"We couldn't do it ourselves," said Kent McFarland, senior conservation biologist of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, which launched the project on New Year's Day, 2013. McFarland has relied on citizen scientists in the past for a butterfly project that led to the creation of a conservation watch list and the discovery of twelve new butterfly species in Vermont. Now he's asking hikers, backyard naturalists and backpackers to add to the atlas. So far, more than 2,000 species have been recorded in the atlas.

Hikers on the Long Trail are in a unique position to contribute. "If you're in the alpine zone you're likely looking at things that are threatened or rare, particularly animals or vascular plants," said Ken-ichi Ueda, co-founder of iNaturalist. "You should be looking out for anything and everything."

Recording is easy: there's a smartphone app for the technologically inclined, or you can upload your photos when you get home from a hike. If you have a GPS receiver, you can use your tracklogs to geotag your entries with the exact location and even altitude. Logging data such as the highest elevation at which you spot a species of tree will become important as climate change alters what can survive where on mountaintops.

SHERI LARSEN

"There's already been some science coming out showing trees might be marching up the mountainside," McFarland said. "The alpine zone is also a place where there could be changes in flowering times. If we had someone watching every day and nailing down flowering times, it's great data to have." Just knowing what species exist in Vermont will be extremely useful. "We'd like to get a snapshot of what things [there] are, and where, right now in Vermont, because we don't know what changes will happen," said McFarland.

The data will tell the Vermont Endangered Species Committee what needs protecting: after all, you can't protect something until you know it's there. Citizen scientists have already logged two rare species, one which hadn't been reported since the 1980s. "We've already had a couple of species show up that are really interesting," said McFarland. One was initially recorded as a common dragonfly, but an expert browsing the atlas identified it as a Spatterdock Darner, a rare dragonfly distinguished by its bright blue eyes.

The atlas is a treasure hunt for naturalists, valuable data for scientists, and perhaps most importantly, a way to develop your connection with the natural world.

"I feel whatever kind of scientific outcome you want from these activities, it's all driven by that feeling of connection to nature or appreciation of nature," said Ueda. "You're not going to vote for the Endangered Species Act if you don't have that initial connection, if you don't feel that nature is interesting, cool, valuable, and worth preserving."

So go out, hikers, backpackers, caretakers, and day-trippers, and record the life you find!

For more information or to contribute, visit http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/vermont-atlas-of-life

A View of Ourselves

Hudson River School Artists Paint the Green Hills

By John Geeza

Someone once said that the mark of a good portrait is not that it looks like the man, but that it feels like the man. So: is the mark of a good landscape painting that it feels like the place?

I am neither an art historian nor a Vermont historian, but I have hiked and maintained the trails of the Green Mountain Club for some time, and I believe that I have some feeling for these mountains. I also paint, and I try to put into my paintings the feelings I have for this landscape. I know from experience the challenge of conveying my sense to the viewer.

Many years ago in a public gallery I saw a painting from the late 1800s of people on the summit of Camel's Hump. It called to mind the Hudson River School painters, who explored and put into paint their views—and feelings—of the places they painted. I have looked online for that painting, but still haven't located it. In fact, my search turned up few images of Vermont among those by Hudson River School painters. That was a surprise. I had assumed that scenes of Vermont would surely appear among their distinctive visions.

Four years ago at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts I saw an exhibit, titled in English "Expanding Horizons," and in French, "Grandeur Nature," subtitled "Painting and Photography of American and Canadian Landscape in the late 19th and early 20th Century." It displayed paintings by Hudson River School members who were exploring the newly opened continent just after the Civil War. They depicted landscapes few people had seen. To some Americans of the time, those paintings came to reflect a Garden of Eden, the splendor of a pristine condition to which viewers could aspire. To others they reflected the Promised Land—land that was theirs by Manifest Destiny—the destiny that the nation, so recently scarred by war, was meant to inherit.

Upon walking into a room that held their paintings, one was struck by enormous canvases, curtains opening on Wagnerian opera scenes: for example, an idyllic meadow with grazing deer, behind which tower cliffs and peaks in a golden glow, and farther back, a sky of thunderclouds foretelling oncoming storms. The images were of landscapes without human habitation, and sometimes without human presence—landscapes of a wild, uncontaminated miracle of a natural world. They reflected a land of enormous scale and potential—a quintessential American landscape. That was what the country was meant to have.

Among the founders and recognized artists of the Hudson River School, the names Thomas Cole, Alfred Bierstadt, and Sanford Gifford came to typify its style. Most of their images and those by others associated with the group came from the West—Yosemite Valley, the Sierra Nevada, the Nevada deserts. Those places were wilderness then. In many minds they became the nation's definitive landscape portrayal.

Not surprisingly, many places the painters visited became national parks, which in turn became classic destinations for Americans. The school's paintings of the West are now icons of tourist destinations, so they are best known among the public. But the Hudson River School also painted the Hudson River Valley, the Catskills, the Adirondacks, and the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

So where are their paintings of Vermont?

I found a few other Hudson River-affiliated painters besides Gifford who did portray Vermont: Charles Louis Heyde and Jerome Thompson among them. I had heard their names before, but was unfamiliar with their work.

In 2001 the University of Vermont Fleming Museum mounted a show of C.L. Heyde's work. In contrast to Cole, who was British born, and Bierstadt, who was German (both trained in Europe), Heyde was born in New York and trained in America. He and his wife moved to Burlington after visiting Vermont searching for inspiration.

I confess I have seen Heyde's work not in the original, but in reproduction, and mostly online. Seeing the reproduced image of a painting, either in print or on a screen, is not the same as seeing the original. We could say that it might look like the painting, but not feel like the painting.

The Fleming show's notes said that while Cole and Bierstadt used the new cadmium pigments for their golden glows, Heyde glazed over his views with earth colors and grays to mute them. As I peruse Heyde's images on the Fleming's website, I notice that in his work *In Shelburne Point* (circa 1857), rich warm hues linger in clouds and water, though the sun has already disappeared below the horizon.

One of his paintings depicts Mount Mansfield as a distant, gently sloped mountain in low sun with colors elegiac in mood. In another view of the mountain, the line of a path leads the eye up the slope of the mountain and onto the ridge, but first crosses a clearcut foreground of stumps and dead trees. His paintings don't get much larger than four feet across, compared to Cole's six-footers or Bierstadt's ten-footers.

Heyde's paintings are lovely, subdued, and to my mind, wistfully sad. They seem to tell viewers that Vermont was a land with its wild energies cut down and plowed over to become utilitarian and tame. Contemporaries apparently shared that attitude. When compared to the higher crags of the Whites and the Adirondacks, the Green Mountains were described as "the green hills" in an article published in *The Knickerbocker* in 1860.

So where had the wildness gone? The Green Mountains may seem gentle, but people can still die in them in unexpected weather, or from a false step on a cliffside, or when crossing a stream turned violent after heavy rain. The wildness has danger as well as beauty.

Actually, one example from the Hudson River School does remind us of this omnipresent threat. Jerome Thompson's majestic *A Belated Party on Mansfield Mountain*, done in 1858 and now in the Metropolitan Museum in New York, shows a party on the mountain. The sudden awareness of danger has just hit them. They are way up on the summit, and the valley, way down there, is just getting the last rays of the sun. If they want to get down safely before dark, they'd better hurry.

Today, we find no shortage of current paintings of a Vermont of scarlet maples, red barns and blue skies seen from the roadside. Or images of snowy hills and white church spires against winter storm clouds in great variety.

But where are today's images that convey the experience of the wilder places, that marvelous sense of climbing into the aroma of balsam, and the feeling of wind against the skin and of granite under foot? What about paintings that make you hear the rush of a swollen stream over boulders, or smell musty autumn leaves? Or that evoke the wait for dawn to break with birdsong as you come out of your shelter into the dew? Or the anxious listening for the approaching buzz of blackflies and mosquitoes? (After all, these wild places aren't entirely benign.)

It seems those paintings are in the future, to be created on the paths that can lead us there. I believe Vermont's trail system is an access to inspiration from nature, and to a personal expression uniquely ours, a landscape waiting for us to discover and portray in our own way. There are paintings to be made that look like these places and feel like them, feel like free air and free feet walking among ferns, on exposed roots and on talus—feelings that cannot be had on the roadside. This opportunity is ours for the taking, and to be thankful for.

John has been involved with conservation and wilderness conservation organizations for over thirty years. He first joined the Green Mountain Club as a member of the Montréal Section, helped in trail maintenance and has hiked the length of the trail. He is now a member at large, living in Guelph, Ontario.

To view these and other images by Hudson River School painters of Vermont visit:

- *University of Vermont's Fleming Museum of Art, http://www.uvm.edu/~fleming/*
- *Middlebury College Museum of Art, http://museum.middlebury.edu/*
- *Metropolitan Museum of Art, http://www.metmuseum.org/*

LEFT: Charles Louis Heyde, *Mount Mansfield*, circa 1857, Fleming Museum of Art, University of Vermont, gift of Mrs. Guy Bailey.

FACING PAGE: Charles Louis Heyde, *Heart of the Green Mountains* (Bread Loaf Mountain), c. 1885-90, oil on canvas, 20 x 12 inches. Collection of Middlebury College Museum of Art, Vermont.

Volunteer Opportunities

Join the GMC's 1,000-strong team of volunteers, help the club maintain the 445-mile Long Trail System, and spread the word about our important work. From swinging a pick to stuffing envelopes at headquarters, we need your help. You need no previous experience for many volunteer opportunities—all we ask is willingness and a sense of humor. For more information, visit our website or contact Joe Sikowitz at (802) 241-8324 or jsikowitz@greenmountainclub.org.

Winter Fest 2014

GMC's 18th annual Winter Festival is right around the corner on Saturday, February 1, and we need your help to make it a success. Volunteers will help with programs (hikes, workshops and family activities), promotions (publicity, sponsors, exhibits and raffles), hospitality (parking, reception, signs and refreshments), or administration (site logistics, volunteer coordination and registration). This event is always fun and a great way to spend time with other club members, show nonmembers a good time, and celebrate winter.

Phonathon Callers

We're looking for friendly, outgoing volunteers to join the membership and development team for telephoning, thanking and fundraising. No cold calls—you'll be talking with previous donors, many of whom will be pleased to be generous again. Training and supper are provided.

Bark Mulch Packers

Are you sturdy? Planning to go for a hike anyway? Help manage our composting privies by carrying mulch to designated campsites and shelters on the Long Trail—a good solo or group project.

Shuttle Drivers (or Trail Angels)

With scant public transportation in Vermont, hikers often need help getting to or from trailheads. Give a hiker a ride, listen to some great stories, and become a GMC trail angel.

Sign Carvers

Help produce trail signs. Volunteers must be willing to follow specifications for materials, design and construction, and demonstrate ability to use a power router to carve letters to GMC standards. We encourage those willing to work on their own with their own tools and materials.

Designers and Photographers

Are you a designer, illustrator, artist, photographer or other creative type? Help keep GMC's printed and online materials looking fresh.

Librarians and Archivists

We need librarians, archivists and historians to help organize our historical collection. If you want to immerse yourself in Long Trail history, this is the opportunity for you.

Thursday Office Volunteers

Join the GMC staff and our group of Thursday volunteers for filing, preparing and sending bulk mailings, and other administrative tasks.

LIZ HOLLENBACH

Adopt a Trail

Whether you want to volunteer on your own, with your family, or with an outing group, adopting a piece of the Long Trail System is a satisfying way to give back to the Green Mountains. We also need adopters in the Northeast Kingdom, so if you live in or near northern Vermont please consider that. The following are available for adoption (trail divisions are those used in the Long Trail Guide):

Trail	Trail Length (miles)
Long Trail	
Clark Brook Trail to Little Hans Peak (Division 7)	1.8
Bread Loaf Mountain to Clark Brook Trail Junction (Division 7)	2.3
Side Trails	
Homer Stone Brook Trail (Division 4)	2.3
Silent Cliff Trail (Division 7)	0.4
Northeast Kingdom Trails	
Mount Pisgah: South Trail	1.7
Mount Hor: North and Brookside Trails	2.1
Lake Willoughby: South Shore Trail	1.3
Shelters/Overnight Sites or Bridges	
Clarendon Gorge Suspension Bridge (Division 5)	

GMC Marks Passing of Dedicated Volunteer

AL FIEBIG, a dear Green Mountain Club friend, passed away May 22, 2013. Al and his wife Karen joined the club in 1994 when they moved to Waterbury, Vermont. With club headquarters just up the road, they became active volunteers both on and off the trail.

In early 2000, Al and Karen became fixtures at the weekly Thursday volunteer group. Al also became a valuable and dependable handyman, using his extensive woodworking skills on many projects. His well-crafted wooden trail signs remain his signature on our trails. He also helped build composting toilets on the Long Trail System, and a kiosk and a wooden arch bridge spanning a small brook on the Short Trail at headquarters.

A soft-spoken and unassuming man, Al was happiest helping behind the scenes to take care of the Long Trail, for which he had a deep affection. Still, we managed to get him to attend most Volunteer Appreciation Picnics, where he received The Green Mountain Award (2004), The Long Trail Service Award (2008), and the Special Recognition Award (2010) for his sign work.

We will miss Al's friendly smile, his willingness to do what needed to be done, and of course his craftsmanship and attention to detail. Although your path may never have crossed his, you have probably encountered Al's handiwork along the way, and your hike was richer for it.

Thank you, Al.

—Pete Antos-Ketcham, Director of Lands and Facilities Management

Introducing Joe Sikowitz, the GMC's new Membership and Volunteer Coordinator

JOE SIKOWITZ joined the Green Mountain Club staff in May as our new membership and volunteer coordinator. He jumped right in, and helped coordinate a successful annual meeting in Stratton in early June!

Originally from Bowie, Maryland, Joe relocated to Vermont from New Orleans, where he had been working five years. He has an undergraduate degree in environmental science and policy and a Master of Library Science degree, both from the University of Maryland.

Down south, Joe helped to expand a biodiesel production and education program, and he introduced at-risk youth to the outdoors through a Louisiana State Parks program. He then took on leadership roles in the New Orleans Public Library system. He was most recently assistant manager of the Algiers Regional Branch Library, New Orleans' largest and newest branch library. His background in volunteer coordination, information systems management, and events planning will serve him and the GMC well.

In his free time, Joe loves to hike. In 2008, he hiked the Appalachian Trail from Katahdin to the Maryland border—and he hopes to complete the AT soon. In the meantime, he's thrilled to be able to explore the Vermont outdoors. He kicked off his first hiking season here by heading up Camel's Hump on Memorial Day (where there was still quite a bit of snow at the summit). He also enjoyed hiking Stratton Mountain at our annual meeting. A resident of Waterbury, Joe is looking forward to hiking in the Worcester Range and hitting all of Vermont's 4,000-footers this summer.

If you haven't met Joe yet, feel free to stop in to GMC headquarters to say hello, email him at jsikowitz@greenmountainclub.org, or call him at (802) 241-8324.

—Maisie Howard, Director of Development

Off the Beaten Path

Corridor Monitoring on the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail

By Joseph Bahr

Do you ever wonder what is off the trail, over the ridge or up the stream? Do you have an urge to explore unknown places? If so, you might enjoy being a Green Mountain Club corridor monitor. For twenty years, I have been a volunteer corridor monitor for about 200 acres of land along the Long Trail in northern Vermont. It has become my special place off the beaten path.

A monitor reports the condition of land and property boundaries surrounding a piece of either the Long Trail or the Appalachian Trail, and problems or inappropriate uses of the land. Knowing that our work protects the hiking experience for everyone is our reward. That experience is more than just an open path through the woods—it is the chance to see wildlife and wildflowers, and to enjoy the moments of quiet and solitude we associate with the trail.

A corridor monitor finds wonders both natural and unnatural—even mysterious. For example, the silvery parachute I discovered swinging from a distant tree. Not something you typically see in the forest. Upon closer inspection, I saw a black box dangling. I placed the box and parachute in my pack and turned them over to the Green Mountain Club who eventually determined why the parachute and box hung from a tree. A public school in Quebec had released a weather balloon to track winds for a science project and it traveled to the northern Vermont forest.

Natural wonders like wildlife and wildflowers are of course more common than parachutes, but can be just as mysterious. Moose and deer are abundant on the 200-acre tract I monitor. I've often seen trees they've peeled for food, and trees they've scraped rubbing their antlers to mark territory. Occasionally you will be fortunate enough to spot the animal itself, like the moose with two calves I saw wading in a pond.

And I've seen several bears. One was young, probably on its own only a few weeks. Another was a large male searching for food in a swamp. If you think black bears are dangerous, you must know something they don't: if you surprise one, it will put as much distance as possible between him and that scary person.

Small mammals are plentiful, and have joined me for lunch or a rest. Sometimes a truly befuddled mouse or shrew has run right over my boot without noticing me. I noticed them, however, and I wondered how long they would survive in a forest full of predators.

The cycles and patterns of nature become familiar after walking the land a few years. It is rich with colorful wildflowers in spring, and I've learned where and when they bloom. I've also discovered a few uncommon orchids. Most hiking trails are closed at this time of year, but it's the best time to monitor land or easements, because neither snow nor summer greenery obscures boundary markings. Thus the monitor receives a special dispensation.

Leave-no-trace camping may be allowed on GMC-conserved lands, depending on elevation and other factors. Another advantage of corridor monitoring is the opportunity to identify isolated and beautiful spots to pitch a tent for a night. That is especially helpful if your parcel is large enough to require more than one day. I know several such sites on my 200 acres. If the notion of a secluded special place in the woods appeals to you, there's no better way to find it than volunteering as a corridor monitor.

Beaver Pond along Long Trail

JEFFREY TRUBITZ

SUSAN SHEA

Of course a monitor must occasionally report problems: trash, deer baiting, permanent tree stands, camp construction, maple sap lines, unauthorized trail cutting. Or more seriously, timber theft or unauthorized motorized use. Monitors are asked only to report encroachments, not to catch or approach encroachers. Once I came across a pile of garbage and a fire ring in a protected area. I simply reported the garbage to GMC staff who removed it and I dismantled the stones of the fire ring and scattered them through the woods.

With more than 35,000 acres of land and easements to watch, more than sixty corridor monitors are essential to GMC's land management program. As the Long Trail Protection Campaign established thirty years ago to conserve land winds down, the club is paying more attention to the land management phase of their work. They always need more monitors.

You undoubtedly have noticed I tend to speak of "my" 200 acres. Monitors feel a personal connection to the tract they watch and its piece of trail, and inevitably become a bit possessive. That is probably the greatest reward of all—forming a special bond with the Green Mountains and the Long Trail.

Volunteer Corridor Monitors Needed

Visit conserved land along the trail at least once a year to ensure conservation restrictions are being upheld. This is great way to learn map, compass, and bushwhacking skills, gain conservation experience, and observe wildlife. We also have opportunities to help stewardship staff with office projects, or to work with a volunteer boundary marking crew. For more information, contact Pete Antos-Ketcham at (802) 241-8217 or Matt Krebs at (802) 241-8321.

Tracts Available on the Long Trail

Villenuve VIa—Belvidere, 214 acres
This parcel in the southeast corner of Belvidere includes the summit of Butternut Mountain (2715'). It is wooded, primarily with yellow birch and sugar maple, as well as white birch, spruce and fir. About 0.3 mile of the Long Trail crosses it.

Parker & Stearns I—Belvidere, 200 acres
This rectangular parcel of undeveloped woodland is on the eastern slope of Laraway Mountain (2797'). The Long Trail cuts across the western corner for about 0.25 mile as it follows the eastern ridge of Laraway Mountain.

Karbaron (Laraway Mountain)—Belvidere, Waterville and Johnson, 980 acres
This parcel includes the ridge and summit of Laraway Mountain (2797'), a remote peak hosting moose, bear, bobcat, hawks, grouse and other wildlife. Primarily hardwood with sugar maple, beech and birch dominating, it has spruce and fir along the ridge.

Karbaron II—Belvidere, 90 acres
Approximately 1,000 feet wide and 4,250 feet long, Karabon II is forested with mixed hardwoods. About 0.5 mile of the Long Trail crosses the southeastern part as it ascends the west ridge of Butternut Mountain.

Davis—Johnson, 612 acres
Except for two shelters, the Davis Tract is undeveloped forest north of Codding Hollow Road. The Long Trail crosses part of Laraway Mountain and the summit of Butternut Mountain. The Davis Neighborhood Trail joins the Long Trail at Corliss Camp. Parker Camp is about 0.25 mile south of Corliss along the Davis Neighborhood Trail.

Blank-South—Johnson, 174 acres
This tract is south of Plot Road, with some frontage on the road. It includes Roundtop Mountain, and the Long Trail runs 0.9 mile along the ridge. The parcel is accessed by the Long Trail and by a logging road from Plot Road.

Parker & Stearns II—Johnson, 207 acres
This tract is undeveloped forestland north of Vermont Route 15 and south of Plot Road. Prospect Rock is about 0.6 mile south of the tract via the Long Trail. The Long Trail crosses the southwestern corner for approximately 0.5 mile on Roundtop Mountain.

Big Basin—Fayston, 531 acres
This tract is forestland in the northwest corner of Fayston, adjoining Huntington and Duxbury. Burnt Rock Mountain (3168'), near the northern boundary, provides 360-degree views of the Mad River Valley, Lake Champlain, the Adirondacks, Mount Ira Allen (3506'), Mount Ethan Allen (3688'), Camel's Hump (4083'), the Northfield Mountains, the Granite Mountains, and Lincoln Mountain.

Tracts Available on the Appalachian Trail

Quechee-West Hartford Rd. to Joe Ranger Road
Hartford, about 2.5 miles of trail.

Pomfret-South Pomfret Rd. to Woodstock Stage Road—Pomfret, 2.2 miles.

Woodstock Stage Rd. to Route 12
Pomfret and Woodstock, 1.5 miles.

Jabez Hill Rd. to Bridgewater Hollow Road
Bridgewater, about 3.5 miles.

Bridgewater Hollow Rd. to Stony Brook Road
Bridgewater, about 6.7 miles (second monitor needed).

River Rd. to Route 100
Killington, 2.4 miles.

Jungle Junction to Shrewsbury Peak Trail
Killington, 4.2 miles.

Lower Cold River Rd. to Lottery Road
Shrewsbury, 2.0 miles.

Lottery Rd. to Route 103
Shrewsbury, 1.9 miles.

Section President's Call for Support

A Lifetime of Giving

Have you ever encountered a stranger wearing something with the GMC logo? When I did recently, I burst out delightedly, "Oh, you're a Green Mountain Club member! That's great!"—only to learn that the woman I met had dropped her membership due to an injury limiting her activity.

Many of us experience temporary lapses from active participation in GMC outings, or age out of serious mountain climbing. But the club still needs our support to keep the Long Trail for future generations. Contributions to projects such as the Winooski River Bridge improve the trail for those who will follow in our footsteps. Our dues, topped up for those who can afford to give more, provide for trail maintenance, the club's education and outreach programs, and much more. To increase the GMC's income from its endowment, consider perpetual support by including the club in your will, as my husband and I have both done.

Do stay with us … the Long Trail that we all cherish needs you!

—Jan Abbott,
Bread Loaf Section President

(Originally printed in summer-fall 2013 Bread Loaf newsletter.)

GMC Business Members Support the Long Trail in Many Ways

The Green Mountain Club has more than ninety business members: from outdoor gear stores and professional services to restaurants and inns throughout Vermont and beyond, they provide critical support to the club. And not just through their dues! Consider some of our $1,000+ business members, for example:

CCOutdoorStore.com provides a 10% discount on all merchandise to GMC members, and donates another 10% of the value of those transactions back to the GMC.

Waterwheel Foundation (a philanthropic endeavor of the band Phish) donates the net proceeds of their merchandise sales whenever Phish goes on tour.

Burlington's **City Market** purchased memberships as rewards for employees who completed a recent wellness program.

Three Tomatoes Restaurant and Nika have donated wonderful food for several delicious GMC events.

Long Trail Brewing has conducted a variety of fundraising efforts for the club, including crafting Centennial Red beer to celebrate our 100th anniversary and hosting a recent open house for current and prospective business members in the Upper Connecticut River Valley.

This is just a sample of the many extraordinary ways business members support the GMC!

If you are interested in becoming a business member, please contact the club's membership coordinator, Joe Sikowitz, at (802) 241-8324 or jsikowitz@greenmountainclub.org.

JOCELYN HEBERT

Long Trail System Returns to Bolton Valley

By early 2012, club members and staff had heard that the volunteer Nordic trail maintainers associated with Bolton Valley Resort, the so-called "Old Goats" or "Young Catamounts," had begun discussions with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) to conserve the 1,144-acre Nordic area. As the home of the Long Trail from 1912 into the 1980s, Bolton Valley is a historic place for the Green Mountain Club. We had even heard that remnants of the old Bolton Lodge might still stand in the woods.

COURTESY OF THE BODMAN FAMILY

On the way to work one morning, I decided to walk the woods to look for the lodge. I found it not too far off of the Catamount Trail. Surprisingly, it was not in terrible shape. Folks had been using it, and they had made some patchwork repairs over the years. Its distinctive stucco siding was crumbling a bit, but apparently salvageable. The bunks still stood, and the foundation looked as if it could easily go another eighty-plus years. (The Burlington Section built the lodge in 1928.)

As the son of a history teacher, I was excited by the potential role the club could play in preserving this unique historic GMC lodge, while also supporting the efforts of our friends to add this land to Mount Mansfield State Forest for the long-term.

After conversations with the Old Goats, VLT, the Catamount Trail Association, and the state, it became clear that our friends would welcome the contribution of our shelter management experience to their effort. The property contains not only Bolton Lodge, but Bryant Camp, which has long been a popular overnight rental for skiers.

Since GMC doesn't typically manage shelters that are not on trails, we asked for easements on which we could build two hiking trails in the valley, connecting the shelters to the Long Trail. The club's Board of Directors voted to support the trails and to renovate Bolton Lodge—and will consider the club's role in Bryant Camp soon.

As a result, when the deed for this land was handed to Governor Shumlin at a ceremony on June 13, the club simultaneously accepted two easements for hiking trails and the rights to manage the shelters in collaboration with the state. At no cost, the club positioned itself to reintroduce the Long Trail System to Bolton Valley via blue-blazed side trails, and to restore Bolton Lodge. We hope to start implementing these plans in the coming year.

—Will Wiquist,
Executive Director

Vermont Energy Siting Commission

In early 2012, the Green Mountain Club helped form a coalition of conservation organizations concerned about wind energy development policy in Vermont. After months of work, the coalition asked Gov. Peter Shumlin to establish an unbiased commission to research and address issues surrounding wind energy project siting and cumulative impacts.

Organizations joining the club in the coalition were Audubon Vermont; the Nature Conservancy, Vermont Chapter; Vermont Land Trust; Vermont League of Conservation Voters; and Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Subsequently Governor Shumlin established the Governor's Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission. The governor appointed commissioners with high-level experience in Vermont energy and land management policies. After many months of research, public deliberations, hearings–including testimony from the club–and site visits, the commission released a 103-page report with numerous recommendations for ways to improve the state's policies for siting energy generation projects.

The Green Mountain Club sees these recommendations as important, positive steps toward improving a process that is not currently adequate for evaluating the highly complex projects being proposed today.

The club applauded the commission's call for consideration of cumulative impacts as a factor in deciding whether, how, and where projects may be sited. The commission also recommended more substantial consideration of the criteria used for non-energy projects under Act 250.

The commission recommended commonsense improvements to the state's processes. These include improved public engagement processes, a tiered process to

See Vermont Energy, page 26

Travels with Kathryn

For Kathryn Wrigley one journey ends while another begins on her personal Long Trail. She has just finished five seasons with the Green Mountain Club as a caretaker, field assistant, and field supervisor. I've been fortunate to work with a stunning array of dedicated, enthusiastic, and idealistic young folks who bring passion and high energy to their all-too-short but important summers on our trails. Kathryn stands tall in that extraordinary group of people.

Kathryn comes from a family of hikers, so her life in the world of seasonal trail work wasn't a stretch for her. After serving on trail crews with conservation corps and as a crew leader in Montana and in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, she connected with us through friends, and spent her first fall on Camel's Hump in 2008. I visited its summit one beautiful September afternoon (someone has to do these things), and found Kathryn hunkered down out of the wind.

A college freshman class arrived to visit the alpine zone. Kathryn swept into action, and got everyone's attention quickly. While it looked like cat herding, the class quickly got the message to stay on rocks to minimize the impact of a large group visiting the threatened and endangered plant communities they were intent on studying. I had a front row seat to observe a ringmaster at work.

As that field season drew to an end, it became obvious that Kathryn was a strong field assistant candidate. She had good communication skills and judgment, leadership ability, and a relaxed-just-so personality. She was comfortable with chaos, and had the flexibility to cope with the uncertainties in permitting processes and the wide range of people we see on the trail. Not to mention her ability to get the attention of the young folks we lead into the woods every June. She seized the day, and managed our caretaker program in northern Vermont, with its nine composting toilets. On top of that she managed days-off life at our Back Forty field staff housing complex, which is more difficult than it sounds, believe me.

After taking the summer of 2010 off to work at the Barre Youth Services Bureau, she moved into the field supervisor role here, where she delved more deeply into all aspects of Long Trail management, including working with agency partners and the GMC Trail Management Committee, permit procurement, site visits, and hiring field staff. She also developed a knack for interpreting me to the seasonal staff—which is no small feat. Working full time for the past two years has greatly enhanced her understanding of GMC and how all the pieces fit together with volunteers and staff, soil and trees, and especially rain, that add up to the Long Trail.

Kathryn covered a lot of ground for us. She assessed the condition of the northern Long Trail (pretty rough), finalized the Stimson Mountain flag line (getting better), and managed the Glen Ellen airlift (well done). Her position is more than a job. It's a lifestyle, and it's one that can render even the strongest constitution fairly crispy by season's end.

In a recent conversation I suggested she take a minute to sit back, watch, and listen to our new crop of seasonal hires, and observe their transformation as they grew to love their work on the trail, and to realize the role she's had in that process. It's tremendously satisfying to be a part of the Long Trail.

It seems natural that the next stop on her journey would be grad school, so Kathryn leaves us to return to the University of Vermont for a master's degree in environmental science and the next point on her trajectory upward. So she'll be nearby, and no doubt paying attention. We wouldn't want it any other way.

Thank you, Kathryn, for making all of our journeys on the Long Trail a little easier. We'll see you at the summit. Cheers.

– Dave Hardy,
Director of Trail Programs

Twenty-First Century Changes

Green Mountain National Forest

The Green Mountain Club has fielded site caretakers in the Green Mountain National Forest since the early 1970s. When I joined the club's staff in 1992, caretakers were paid by fees they collected, plus small stipends to keep them in groceries during "thin" weeks.

The next summer the club and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) changed to a weekly wage, ending more than twenty years of direct-fee funding. In the1990s summer caretakers were posted at Stratton Tower, Stratton Pond, Griffith Lake, Little Rock Pond and Mount Abe. When I took over the financial agreements in 1999, the Forest Service agreement provided for half the cost of caretakers in southern Vermont. The agreement continues today but there is less funding available for our efforts. To some degree we are compensating by reducing the length of our field season and the number of sites we are able to cover.

From 1994 to 2010, the club repaired or replaced many shelters along the Long and Appalachian Trails. These projects were supported by the USFS, Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), donors, and builders such as Laurel and Erik Tobiason and Tom Abbott, who effected a post-and-beam revolution in Vermont hiker shelter building. And the ATC-inspired Volunteer Long Trail Patrol started an annual six- to ten-week program funded by the USFS and the ATC to improve the treadway and drainage in southern Vermont to cope with today's wetter summers.

In 2011, Tropical Storm Irene shifted our priorities to bridges. Some bridges may be gone for good, but otherwise recovery has been good if not as fast as some would like.

Fortunately, public land managers value the Long and Appalachian Trails. We strive to maintain strong partnerships with them, and our trails exemplify cooperative agency and volunteer management. Our trail system remains firmly established as a critical recreational resource in Vermont.

Communicating on the Trail

What happens when an early twentieth century concept collides with the twenty-first century? Instant communication from the woods with cell phones, laptops and spot beacons can be a good thing. Hikers can call home more regularly, reporting the effects of weather, trail conditions, stream crossings and hiker health. But cell phone coverage is spotty and batteries go dead, so we sometimes get phone calls from folks who haven't heard from hikers when expected.

We and agency partners can usually determine whether there is an emergency. Nine times out of ten there is not. Still, silence is a concern, and expressing concern is important. So, please call us. But also, please understand that we and our agency partners must use our judgment. Usually poor weather is the cause of a delayed call, and another day will permit the hiker to find a signal. If our response is unsatisfactory, families or friends can contact the Vermont State Police, which is legally responsible for finding lost hikers.

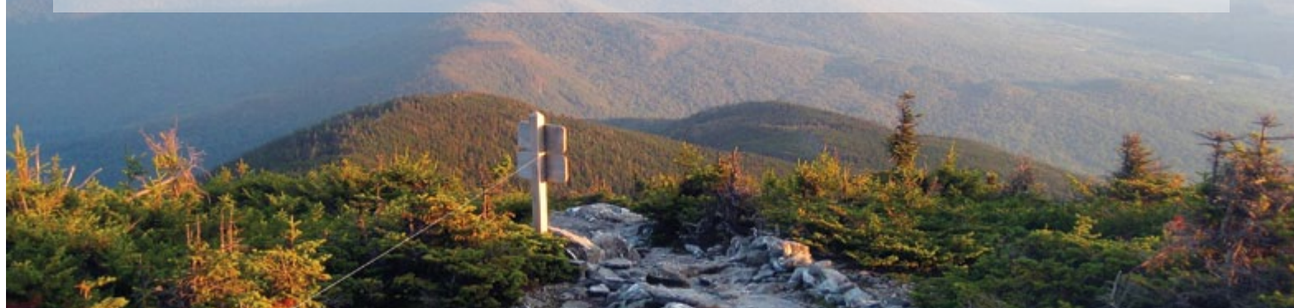
In May a snowstorm stranded a hiker in the shadow of Jay Peak for a couple days before he could call home, and we received a call. In another recent case a hiker didn't call as expected, and a friend asked for a club member to hike into the woods immediately to see whether the incommunicado friend had signed a shelter log book.

The stranded hiker near Jay Peak had thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail. We believed he had the sense to stay under cover until conditions improved, and we were right. We would have worried more about an inexperienced hiker. There was no aftermath in the log book case, so we are operating under the happy impression that that hiker is safe, too.

We live in a litigious society, so it is unreasonable to ask untrained volunteers to undertake searches. It is almost always better to wait a day or two unless the weather is really life threatening. If you are going for a long hike, arrange for some form of communication with home. Make sure family and friends understand that there may be some slip in any schedule, and if concerned, the home front can always contact the club. We can either provide reassurance, or move the problem to a higher authority.

I hope this clarifies our trail hiker communication protocol, which of course is a work in progress. We want a trail experience to be an adventure, but safe as well.

– Dave Hardy,
Director of Trail Programs



JOCELYN HEBERT

Section Directory

Bennington
Maintenance: Harmon Hill to Glastenbury Mountain
President: Martha Stitelman, (802) 442-0864
E-mail: mstitel@sover.net
Website: www.bennington.com/outingclub

Brattleboro
Maintenance: Winhall River to Vt. 11/30
President: George Roy, (603) 381-7756
E-mail: GeorgeRoy@myfairpoint.net
Website: www.brattleborogmc.com

Bread Loaf
Location: Middlebury area
Maintenance: Sucker Brook Shelter to Emily Proctor Shelter
President: Jan Abbott
E-mail: jabbott4111@myfairpoint.net
Website: www.gmcbreadloaf.org

Burlington
Maintenance: Jonesville to Smugglers' Notch
President: Ted Albers, (802) 985-9064
E-mail: ted@ted-albers.net
Website: www.gmcburlington.org

Connecticut
Location: Hartford, Connecticut
Maintenance: Glastenbury Mountain to Arlington-West Wardsboro Road
President: Carol A. Langley, (860) 621-2860
E-mail: cosmical14@yahoo.com
Website: www.conngmc.com

Killington
Location: Rutland area
Maintenance: Vt. 140 to Tucker-Johnson Shelter site
President: Barry Griffith, (802) 492-3573
E-mail: Griff2Vt@vermontel.net
Website: www.gmckillington.org

Laraway
Location: St. Albans area
Maintenance: Vt. 15 to Vt. 118
President: Bruce Bushey, (802) 893-2146
E-mail: brbshey@comcast.net

Manchester
Maintenance: Vt. 11/30 to Griffith Lake
President: Marge Fish, (802) 824-3662
E-mail: marge.fish@gmail.com

Montpelier
Maintenance: Bamforth to Jonesville and Smugglers' Notch to Chilcoot Pass
President: Reidun Nuquist, (802) 223-3550
E-mail: arnuquist@comcast.net
Website: www.gmcmontpelier.org

Northeast Kingdom
Location: Northeast Kingdom
President: Chris Rice, (802) 748-0460
E-mail: ricec@fiu.edu
Website: www.nekgmc.org

Northern Frontier
Location: Montgomery
Maintenance: Hazen's Notch to Journey's End
President: Jane Williams, (802) 827-3879
E-mail: janiewilliams@surfglobal.net

Ottauquechee
Location: Upper Valley, and New Hampshire
Maintenance: Appalachian Trail: Maine Jctn. to Vt. 12
President: Inge Brown, (802) 296-5777
E-mail: inge.brown@dartmouth.edu
Website: http://gmc-o-section.org

Sterling
Location: Morrisville/Stowe/Johnson
Maintenance: Chilcoot Pass to Vt. 15
President: Greg Western
E-mail: gw60031@hotmail.com
Website: www.gmcsterling.org

Worcester
Location: Worcester, Massachusetts
Maintenance: Arlington-West Wardsboro Rd. to Winhall River
President: Jennifer Solin
E-mail: jenniferleesolin@yahoo.com

The Green Mountain Club has fourteen local sections that maintain parts of the Long Trail and sponsor outings.

Montpelier Section

She Followed Her Dreams

If you have been around the Green Mountain Club a while, you knew Sally Sairs. Upon moving her family to Vermont in 1967, she became a regular at intersectional and annual meetings. A key member of the Montpelier Section, she served as a trip leader, a trail worker, secretary, publicity coordinator, president, and section director of the GMC board. Early on, she became a Long Trail end-to-ender.

Sally's love affair with Vermont began when her parents sent her to Brown Ledge Camp for girls on Lake Champlain. There she became the outdoors woman, sailor, and paddler she remained all her life. Her van always packed with outdoor gear, she was ready to travel on short notice.

She was eager to explore the natural world. After a first overseas trip to Norway, she never stopped traveling. She walked in Wales, England, Ireland, and Arizona; paddled in Alaska, Costa Rica, Canada, Maine, and the Adirondacks; sailed in the Virgin Islands; and voyaged to Galapagos and the Antarctic.

Sally's voracious reading reflected her interests: geography, Arctic exploration, natural history and environmental conservation. Favorite writers included John McPhee and Wallace Stegner.

As a registered nurse, Sally's most fulfilling professional years were the twenty-plus she spent in hospitals in Alaska. From bases in Kotzebue, Bethel, or Barrow, she flew to outlying villages to help bring medical care to native patients. The lack of hospital hierarchy on the tundra suited her self-reliance.

More than most, Sally followed her dreams. With her three children grown, she sold her Victorian house in Montpelier, bought a hilltop in Woodbury, and built herself a snug cabin, woodshed and sauna in the woods. There she lived off the grid for thirty-five years, leaving a very small footprint on the earth.

Every winter she invited section members for snowshoeing and potluck in her cozy cabin, lined with books and classical music cassettes. Her own dinner contribution was always a big pot of soup: she was a gourmet cook with a woodstove.

Sally was the best of outdoor companions—competent, helpful, fearless, and always happy to be out. She possessed a heart of gold. We, her friends, remember countless acts of kindness and generosity. As one fellow wilderness traveler put it, with Sally and her Swiss army knife along, we knew we could handle anything!

Sally (79) died on May 6, 2013, on the Buffalo National River in Arkansas, doing what she loved best, kayaking.

–Reidun Nuquist,
Montpelier Section President

Sally Sairs

The Montpelier Section maintains the Long Trail from Bamforth Ridge to Jonesville and Smugglers' Notch to Chilcoot Pass. For more information visit, www.gmcmontpelier.org.

The Northern Frontier

Section Presents the Video: Don Hill and the Long Trail

Don Hill lives in Swanton, a small town in northern Vermont west of Lake Champlain and just south of the Canadian border. He has been a member and volunteer of the Green Mountain Club since 1965—almost fifty years.

I met Don ten years ago when I became involved with the Northern Frontier Section, which he founded with Rolf Anderson and Walter Pomroy. As I got to know Don through volunteer work and learned how much he has done for GMC, I got the bright idea to create a short video to capture his many contributions to the club and the Long Trail.

Of course, I had no idea what this involved, so I contacted my friend Bobbi Flack, who teaches videography at Green Mountain Technology and Career Center. She agreed to help, and the project began with an interview with Don about four years ago. Fast forward to the present, and we have completed the video.

Don was a pioneer of leave-no-trace practices, and he removed the dumps at many shelters before there was a trademarked Leave No Trace program. The Dremel-routed signs between Johnson and Journey's End, and on other parts of the trail, are one of his signatures on the trail. He single handedly painted most of the blazes on the Long Trail and side trails in the North, which made for some long days. Don's frequent attention to the five trailheads and sign-in registers in this area made them some of the most welcoming to hikers in the region.

Don Hill

At various times he has been the adopter for Roundtop Shelter, Tillotson Camp, Jay Camp, and Shooting Star Shelter, and he helped build Roundtop Shelter and Corliss Camp. He helped convince GMC to dismantle the old Journey's End Camp and rebuild it on the Short Trail at the Visitor Center in Waterbury Center. Don also prefabricated most of the outhouses in the north at his home workshop. The pieces were then transported to the trail and assembled on site.

An innovative man, Don custom tailored tools for trail work and trail blazing. And he helped with the *Long Trail Guide* doing research and map-making, measuring distances with a bicycle wheel he converted for surveying.

It seems impossible for one person to have accomplished so much. But the club has recognized Don's dedication and contributions by the following awards: Volunteer of the Year (1995), Ice Storm Champion (1998), and Honorary Life Membership, GMC's most prestigious award (2000). In 2012 at Jay Peak Resort he was the first member to have a Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting dedicated to him. Spruce Ledge Lodge was dedicated to Don in 1999.

Don's wonderful sense of humor and his passion for and dedication to the trail are endearing and unmistakable in this video. I hope you will take the time to enjoy it, and see for yourselves how one man's devotion to the back country of Vermont's forests, rivers, and mountain peaks made this rugged trail accessible to all.

Now available for viewing on the Green Mountain Club website: http://bit.ly/16P0ZrS.

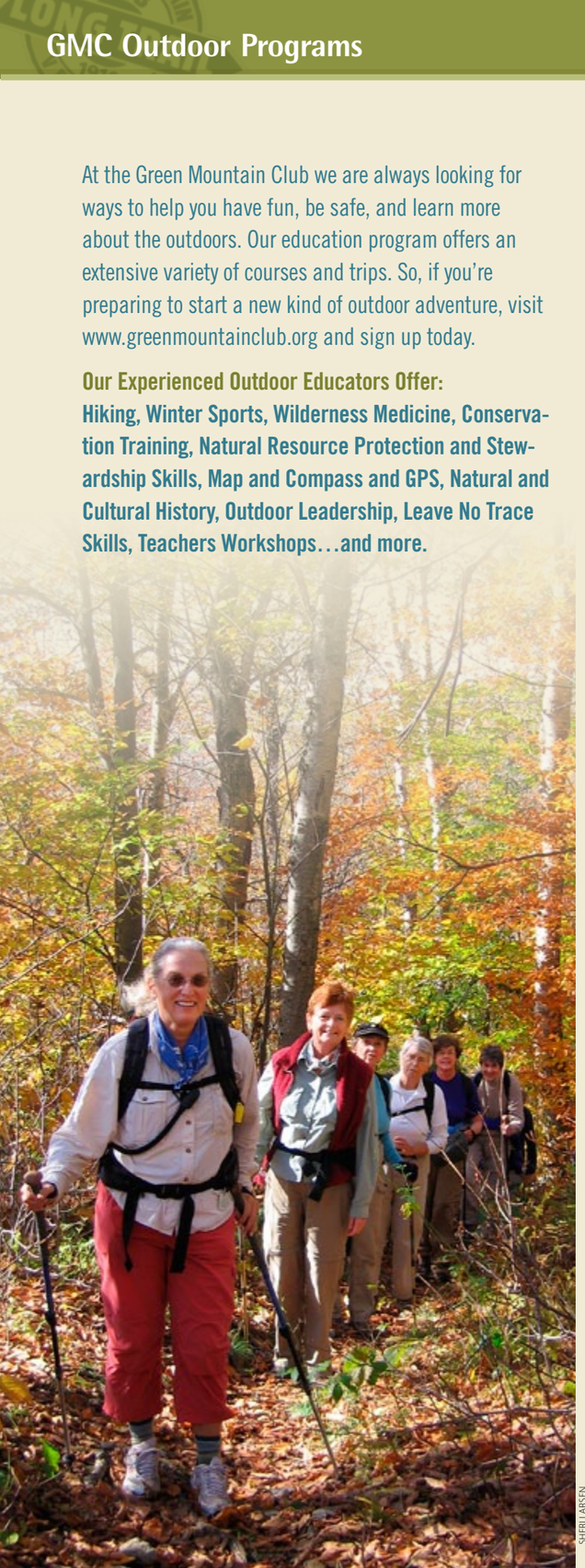
–Jane Williams, Northern
Frontier Section President

The Northern Frontier Section maintains the Long Trail from Hazen's Notch to Journey's End.

Don Hill

At the Green Mountain Club we are always looking for ways to help you have fun, be safe, and learn more about the outdoors. Our education program offers an extensive variety of courses and trips. So, if you're preparing to start a new kind of outdoor adventure, visit www.greenmountainclub.org and sign up today.

Our Experienced Outdoor Educators Offer:
Hiking, Winter Sports, Wilderness Medicine, Conservation Training, Natural Resource Protection and Stewardship Skills, Map and Compass and GPS, Natural and Cultural History, Outdoor Leadership, Leave No Trace Skills, Teachers Workshops…and more.



SHERI LARSEN

KIM ROSENBAUM

OUTDOOR SKILLS

Women's Introduction to Backpacking

Tuesday, October 22, 6:30–8 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

If you have wanted to spend an overnight or nights on the Long Trail but never have, this workshop will ease your concerns and give you the confidence to set out. Cynthia Needham will cover specific needs of women and what it takes to backpack on the Long Trail. At age sixty, after more than thirty years as an internationally recognized microbiologist, she decided to do a solo thru-hike on the Long Trail. Having never spent a night in a tent, let alone hiked every day for a month, Cynthia completed the entire trail, and loved every minute of it. She will share her experience, demonstrate gear, and facilitate an open discussion for participants to share their goals, fears, and experiences of backpacking on Vermont's hiking trails. Fee $10. Register at least one week in advance.

FIRST AID

SOLO Wilderness First Aid

Saturday and Sunday,
October 19 & 20, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday,
December 7 & 8, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

Sign up early—this course fills fast! This sixteen-hour, hands-on course will prepare you for medical emergencies in the field. The focus is on the prevention, recognition and treatment of backcountry injuries and illnesses. Wilderness First Aid certification or Wilderness First Responder (WFR) recertification is provided upon completion. Contact GMC if you need WFR recertification or CPR certification (additional fees may apply). Instructors: SOLO staff. Limit: 30. Fee: $180. Contact GMC for a list of overnight accommodations. Register no later than three weeks in advance.

Young Adventurers Club

The Young Adventurers Club is a Green Mountain Club program designed to get kids six and under and their parents outdoors to hike, play, learn, and make friends. YAC was originally founded by GMC's Montpelier Section.

Montpelier Section YAC Calendar

www.gmcmontpelier.org

Sunday, September 15: Early fall walk to Mallory Brook, East Montpelier. Easy, 1-2 miles. Mike Wetherell, (802) 223-8493.

Sunday, October 13: Hike to White Rock, Middlesex. Moderate, 3-4 miles. Shawn Keeley, (802) 229-0933.

Saturday, November 9: Bike ride. Moderate, 4-5 miles. Matt Krebs, (802) 485-4312.

Sunday, November 10: Short fall hike, Montpelier. Easy, 1-2 miles. Gretchen Elias, (802) 223-6360.

Manchester Section YAC Calendar

www.gmcmanchester.org

Sunday, August 25: Back to school hike to Little Rock Pond. Enjoy a swim in the boulder bordered pond or a picnic on the shore. 4 miles round trip, less than 350' elevation change and very accessible piece of the Long Trail for families with young hikers. Bring bug spray, water, lunch and a sense of adventure with you. Jason Pergament, (802) 681-6342, jpergament@burrburton.org.

Friday, November 8: Equinox Preserve family night hike. Leave your flashlights behind and join Equinox Preserve Steward Rick LaDue and the Green Mountain Club's Young Adventurers Club for a family-friendly foray into the nocturnal world of Mt. Equinox. Learn about special adaptations of deer, owls, shrews, flying squirrels and a number of other creatures. Most importantly, experience all the ways humans are also adapted to survive at night. All activities are kid-friendly and appropriate for ages 3-9.

Pre-register with Rick LaDue, (802) 366-1400, rick@equinoxpreservationtrust.org or Jason Pergament of GMC's Young Adventurers Club at (802) 681-6342, jpergament@burrburton.org.

Bread Loaf Section YAC Calendar

For future planned outings visit www.gmcbreadloaf.org/yac.

JASON PERGAMENT

Manchester Young Adventurers

GMC Education Program Sponsors

GMC's education workshops are made possible in part by the support of the business community and other friends of the club. To find out how you can support GMC's education program, please call (802) 244-7037 or e-mail gmc@greenmountainclub.org.

REGISTRATION

Contact our office to register for workshops. Full payment by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, check, or cash is required before attending workshops.

Phone: (802) 244-7037
Fax: (802) 244-5867
E-mail: gmc@greenmountainclub.org
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road
Waterbury Center, VT 05677

Register online at www.greenmountainclub.org.

FEES

GMC members—ask about your member discount. Not a member? Join and save.

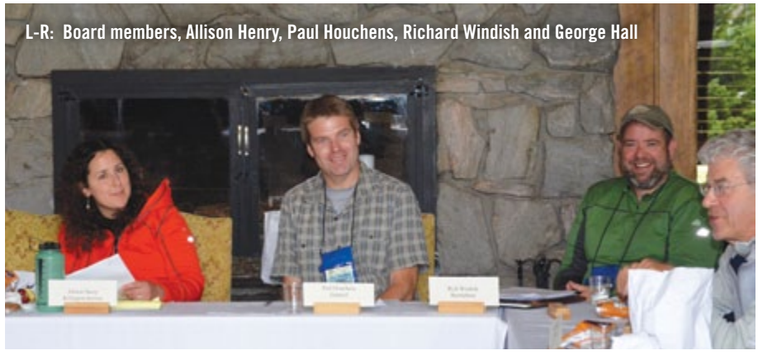
CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Refunds (minus a $10 processing fee) will be provided if cancellations are made before the registration deadline. Refunds for cancellations after the registration deadline will be 50 percent of the workshop fee only if the space is subsequently filled. There will be no refunds for reservations cancelled less than three days before the workshop start date. GMC reserves the right to cancel a program at any time, in which case the club will notify registrants and a full refund will be provided.

Note: Workshop dates and venues are subject to change due to weather conditions and other unforeseen circumstances. Please call or e-mail GMC before all workshops for updates. Updates, additional workshops and more information can be found online at www.greenmountainclub.org.

AGE REQUIREMENT

The minimum age to participate in a workshop is eighteen, unless otherwise noted.


L-R: Board members, Allison Henry, Paul Houchens, Richard Windish and George Hall

At a short meeting immediately after the 2013 GMC annual meeting, the Board of Directors expressed reservations about a proposal for a research facility on top of Mount Mansfield. The board also considered a request for the club to participate in a conservation project in Vermont's Taconic Mountain Range, and elected officers.

A group led by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies and the UVM Natural Areas Center, is proposing a research facility in the sub-alpine zone on the summit of Mount Mansfield by adapting building formerly housing electronic equipment. The board approved a motion objecting to overnight lodging at the site, as inconsistent with the management of the alpine zone that GMC has been pursuing for forty years. The board did not object to day use of the space for research, education and stewardship activity. GMC will to continue to work with proposal proponents to find ways to embrace the proposal's strong points while minimizing impacts.

GMC Executive Director Will Wiquist briefly explained the requested GMC role in the conservation of the Taconic Rambles property in Hubbardton, Vermont, by the Vermont Land Trust. The 400-acre-plus parcel of land includes a unique Japanese garden and an attractive network of hiking trails open to the public, where the Killington Section has conducted many outings. Kit Davidson, the long time owner, proposes to bequeath the property to VLT, with the club serving as a monitor of its management to ensure the property remains open to the public permanently. After discussion the board tabled the proposal for further consideration, while expressing interest in learning more details.

The board elected the following for the 2013-2014 year: president, Jean Haigh; vice president, John Page; treasurer, Dick Andrews; and secretary, Tom Candon.

Before adjourning, each board member received a copy of the newly revised *Long Trail End-to-Enders Guide*.

In housekeeping moves, the board:

- Approved a revision to the list of officers with check signing authority to improve the club's ability to get checks signed at times when some officers may be unavailable, while still meeting the professional auditors' recommendations for adequate financial controls.
- Approved minutes for the January 2013 and March 2013 board meetings.
- Adjourned.

–Tom Candon, Secretary

Schedule of Board Meetings

The Green Mountain Club Board of Directors will meet on the following Saturdays:

- September 28, 2013 – GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center (followed by Volunteer Appreciation Picnic)
- January 18, 2014 – Location TBD
- March 15, 2014 – GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center
- June 14, 2014 – Killington area (specifics TBD)

VERMONT ENERGY, continued from page 26

expedite small projects and focus more regulatory resources on large projects, trigger points for notifying the public sooner about major projects, third party monitoring of projects, and improved online information sources.

"The siting commission did yeoman's work in reviewing the state's policies related to energy generation siting," said GMC President Jean Haigh.

The future of these recommendations is unknown. The independent, quasi-judicial Public Service Board could implement a number of the proposed changes themselves. The governor's Agency of Natural Resources and Department of Public Service could as well.

However, some of the proposed changes would need legislative approval. The General Assembly has begun reviewing the recommendations, and could act on them as early as 2014.

While the commission's recommendations do not address every concern the club has expressed regarding wind energy development policies, particularly the appropriate use of public lands, we do support the recommendations of the commission as much-needed, commonsense improvements to a system established before high-elevation energy production was envisioned.

The Green Mountain Club has played a constructive role in the public discussion of wind energy projects. We obtained mitigation of some adverse impacts of the Lowell and Deerfield projects, but stayed uninvolved in projects with less impact on the hiking experience. The club has a strong and reasonable energy policy available on the GMC website: http://bit.ly/1bMPTpJ

–Will Wiquist,
Executive Director

GMC outings are led by volunteers from our local sections and are open to club members and the public. Outings are free unless otherwise noted. Wear clothing and gear appropriate for the activity and weather conditions, and bring food and water. For trailwork, wear sturdy boots, work gloves, and protective clothing, and be willing to get dirty. For meeting time, place, and other details, contact the trip leader listed. Mileages given are round trip. All outings are in Vermont unless otherwise noted. This is a list of selected outings. **For a complete list of outings, please see www.greenmountainclub.org.**

SEPTEMBER

9/1: **Climb Whiteface Mtn. via Sterling Pond Trail, Stowe.** Burlington Section. Hike to Sterling Pond, then LT over Madonna and Morse Mtns., continue to Whiteface Mtn. and return. Difficult, 11 miles, 4000′ elevation gain. David Hathaway, (802) 899-9982 or davidhathaway.78@gmail.com.

9/2: **Climb Okemo Mtn. via Healdville Trail, Ludlow.** Ottaquechee Section. Fire tower, nice views. Steep grades but not rough. Moderate, 6 miles, 1900′ elevation gain. Dick Andrews, (802) 885-3201.

9/2: **Hike in Half Moon Pond State Park, Hubbardton**. Killington Section. Hike to High Pond. Possible second hike to Moscow Pond. Park fee. Easy to moderate, 1.5 to 4.5 miles. Larry Walter or Vivian Bebee, (802) 775-3855.

9/3: **Hike Home Hill Peak, Plainfield, NH.** Ottaquechee Section. Small peak overlooking Connecticut River. Easy, 3.2 miles, few hundred feet elevation gain. Peter Hope, (603) 863-6456.

9/7: **Climb Cathedral Pines and Mohawk Mtn., Cornwall.** Connecticut Section. Steep, 6 miles. Sarah O'Hare, seohare7@yahoo.com.

9/7: **Bike dirt roads, Winooski.** Northern Frontier Section. 100 kilometer ride (60+ miles). Ferdinand Lauffer, (802) 933-4252.

9/7: **Hike Lost Pond Bog, Big Branch Wilderness Area, east of Danby.** Ottaquechee Section. Moderate, 7.5 miles, 1500′ elevation gain. Dick Andrews, (802) 885-3201.

9/8: **Hike to Sterling Pond via LT, Stowe.** Burlington Section. Hike LT to Elephant's Head, then to Sterling Pond and Shelter. Moderate, 3.2 miles, 1200′ elevation gain. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net.

9/8-9/15: **Hike Appalachian Trail, PA.** Connecticut Section. There will be rocks so the plan is short 6-7 mile days with one long day at the end. 55-60 miles. Carol A. Langley, (860) 621-2860 or cosmical14@yahoo.com.

9/14: **Climb Camel's Hump via Monroe Trail, Duxbury.** Ottaquechee Section. Moderate, 7.1 miles, 1800′ elevation gain. Option to descend Bamforth Ridge. Heinz or Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129.

9/14: **Climb Hogback Mtn., Goshen.** Killington Section. Bring supper and enjoy the sunset over the valley from viewpoint. Easy to moderate, 2.5 miles. Sue Thomas, (802) 773-2185.

9/14: **Climb Mt. Jefferson via Caps Ridge Trail, White Mtns., NH.** Montpelier Section. Difficult and challenging. Paul DeLuca, (802) 476-7987 or pdeluca420@msn.com.

9/14: **Climb Monastery Mtn. and Philadelphia Peak, Hancock**. Bread Loaf Section. Unmarked trail. Difficult, 6 miles. Beth Eliason, (802) 989-3909.

9/15: **Climb Camel's Hump via Forest City Trail and LT, Huntington Center.** Burlington Section. Enjoy some time on open summit. Return Burrows Trail. Difficult, 7 miles, 2500′ elevation gain. Pat Nowlan, (802) 578-3980 or patricia.nowlan@gmail.com.

9/17: **Climb White Rocks Mtn., Wallingford.** Ottaquechee Section. From picnic area, explore trails to Ice Beds and to White Rocks Cliff. Moderate, 5 miles, 1430′ elevation gain. Peter Hope, (603) 863-6456.

9/19: **Hike in Sleeping Giant State Park, CT.** Connecticut Section. Harvest Moon/Sunset Hike. Headlamps a must. Bring your dinner or cook it in the Pavilion. Carol A. Langley, (860) 621-2860 or cosmical14@yahoo.com.

9/21-22: **Overnight Hike, Averill Mtn. Trail, Averill.** Northern Frontier Section. Camp in Averill first day. Hike Gore Mtn. Trail second day. Jane Williams, (802) 827-3870 or janie williams@surfglobal.net.

9/22: **Climb Spruce Mtn., Plainfield.** Montpelier Section. Family-friendly hike to fire tower. Moderate, 2.2 miles, 1180′ elevation gain. Ken Hertz, hertzkj@gmail.com.

9/22: **Hike Stratton Pond via LT, Wardsboro.** Bread Loaf Section. Hike to Stratton Mtn. summit, descend to Stratton Pond returning on Stratton Pond Trail. Difficult, 10.7 miles, 1700′ elevation gain. John Predom, (802) 377-9654 or jpredom@gmail.com.

9/24: **Hike John Ross Trail, Goshen.** Connecticut Section. 6.7 miles. Don Hagstrom, (860) 621-3453.

9/28: **Climb Burnt Rock Mtn. via Hedgehog Brook Trail and LT, Fayston.** Montpelier Section. Bring lunch, water, and rain gear. Difficult, 5.2 miles. George Longenecker and Cynthia Martin, (802) 229-9787 or marlong@myfairpoint.net.

9/28: **Climb Noonmark Mtn., Adirondacks, NY.** Bread Loaf Section. Moderate to difficult, 6.7 miles, 1991′ elevation gain. Brenda Elis, (802) 388-0936.

9/28: **Hike to Oregon Falls, Newfane.** Brattleboro Section. Short hike. Rob and Bonnie Cramp, (802) 348-7158.

9/29: **Climb Stowe Pinnacle via Stowe Pinnacle Trail, Stowe.** Burlington Section. Relatively short but steep to open summit with views. Kid and dog friendly. Moderate, 2.8 miles, 1520′ elevation gain. Kelley Christie, (802) 999-7839 or kelleymchristie@gmail.com.

9/29: **Hike Abbey Pond Trail, Middlebury.** Burlington Section. Gentle climb with several brook crossings. Beaver pond, view of twin peaks of Frost Mountain. Easy, 4.6 miles, 1260′ elevation gain. Dot Myer, (802) 863-2433 or dotmyer@myfairpoint.net.

9/29-10/3: **Hike AT, NH and VT.** Connecticut Section. Backpack from NH line to Rte. 100, Gifford Woods State Park, VT. 42.3 miles. Carol A. Langley, (860) 621-2860 or cosmical14@yahoo.com.

9/29: **Hike LT/AT, East Wallingford.** Ottaquechee Section. Rte. 140 over Bear Mtn. to Clarendon Gorge at Rte. 103. Moderate, 6.3 miles, 1000′ elevation gain. Heinz and Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129.

OCTOBER

10/1: **Hike Snake Mtn., Addison.** Ottaquechee Section. Views from summit. Pond. Moderate, 3.6 miles, 900′ elevation gain. Peter Hope, (603) 863-6456.

10/5: **Paddle Little Otter Creek, Ferrisburgh.** Bread Loaf Section. Moderate flat water paddle, 4-5 miles. David Andrews, (803) 388-4894 or vtrevda@yahoo.com.

10/5: **Bike from Townshend to Grafton.** Brattleboro Section. Fall foliage tour. Easy. Joe Cook, (802) 257-0609.

10/5: **Paddle Marshfield Reservoir, Marshfield.** Montpelier Section. PFD required. Bring lunch. Moderate, 3-4 miles. Joan Heller, (802) 223-1874.

10/6: **Hike Camel's Hump via Monroe, Alpine and Long Trails, Duxbury.** Montpelier Section. Bring water, lunch, and clothing for wind and rain protection. Moderate to difficult, 7 miles. Reidun and Andrew Nuquist, (802) 223-3550.

10/6: **Hike AT, Woodstock.** Ottaquechee Section. Join a Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National History Park Ranger on short hike. Pomfret Rd. to Bartlett Brook Rd. Easy, 1.5 miles. Heinz and Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129.

10/8: **Hike French's Ledges, Meriden, NH.** Ottaquechee Section. Loop from Plainfield Elementary School through woods to view point. Easy to moderate, 4 miles, 700′ elevation gain. Peter Hope, (603) 863-6456.

10/8: **Poetry Hike on private land, Washington.** Montpelier Section. Cross through hayfields, woods and high meadows with views. Half hour of silence. Wear hiking boots and bring a favorite nature/environment-type poem to read. Moderate. George Plumb, (802) 883-2313 or plumb.george@gmail.com.

10/12: **Hike to Stark's Nest via Jerusalem Trail, Jerusalem.** Bread Loaf Section. Option to continue on to newly restored Glen Ellen Lodge. Moderate to difficult, 6.8 to 7.4 miles, 2100′ elevation gain. Kathy Duclos, (802) 453-2149 or kduclos@gmavt.net.

10/12: **Climb Mt. Cube via Rivendell Trail, Orford, NH.** Montpelier Section. Descend AT. Difficult, 6 miles. Steve Lightholder, (802) 479-2304.

10/12: **Climb Stratton Mtn., Stratton.** Brattleboro Section. Great views from the fire tower. Moderate, 6.6 miles, 1600′ elevation gain. George Roy, (603) 381-7756.

10/12: **Climb Stratton Mtn. via I.P. Road and LT, Stratton.** Ottaquechee Section. Fire tower with nice views. Moderate, 6.6 miles, 1600′ elevation gain. Dick Andrews, (802) 885-3201.

10/13: **Climb Spruce Mtn., Plainfield.** Montpelier Section. Family-friendly hike to fire tower. Moderate, 2.2 miles, 1180′ elevation gain. Ken Hertz, hertzkj@gmail.com.

10/15: **Hike Hazen Trail, Wilder.** Ottaquechee Section. Part of trail recently rerouted. Easy, 3 miles. Inge Brown, (802) 296-5777.

10/18: **Hike to Abbey Pond, Middlebury.** Bread Loaf Section. Moderate. Ginny Heidke, (902) 989-7272 or ginny pots@comcast.net.

10/20: **Climb Smarts Mtn. via Lambert Ridge Trail, Orford, NH.** Ottaquechee Section. Views from ledges and observation tower at summit. Strenuous, 7.2 miles, 2800′ elevation gain. Dick Ruben, (802) 333-3707.

10/20: **Climb Camel's Hump via Forest City Trail and LT, Huntington Center.** Bread Loaf Section. Return Burrows Trail. Difficult, steep climbs, 7 miles, 2500′ elevation gain. John Predom, (802) 377-9654.

10/21: **Hike Collette Trail, Enfield, NH.** Ottaquechee Section. Grafton Pond Road to Crystal Lake. Stream with waterfalls. Easy, 3-4 miles. Peter Hope, (603) 863-6456.

10/22: **Hike to Lake Solitude via Andrew Brook Trail, Newbury, NH.** Ottaquechee Section. On flank of Mt. Sunapee. Moderate, 3.8 miles, 1400′ elevation gain. Eleanor Zue, (802) 685-3182.

10/26: **Climb Mt. Tom, Woodstock**. Ottaquechee Section. Easy to moderate, 1300′ elevation gain. Bring water and snacks. Emily Jones, (802) 457-9110.

10/26: **Bike, Amherst.** Brattleboro Section. Fred Newton, (978) 443-3281 or cnewton1@myfairpoint.net.

10/26: **Work Hike on Long, Elephant's Head and Sterling Pond Trails, Stowe.** Montpelier Section. All abilities. Various distances. Fall walk-thru. Wear sturdy boots, work clothes and gloves. Fred Jordan, (802) 223-3935 or trails@gmcmontpelier.org.

10/29: **Hike Pine Park Trail, Hanover, NH.** Ottaquechee Section. Loop through pine and hemlock forest. Some ups and downs. Easy, 2 miles. Inge Brown, (802), 296-5777.

11/5: **Hike Albert Schweitzer Trail, Hanover, NH.** Ottaquechee Section. Loop around the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Easy, 2 miles. Inge Brown, (802) 296-5777.

11/5: **Climb Spruce Peak to Prospect Rock via LT, Manchester.** Ottaquechee Section. Vt. 11 south on LT. Descend Old Rootville Rd. Views. Moderate, 6.7 miles, 900′ elevation gain. Peter Hope, (603) 863-6456.

11/9: **Hike to Prospect Rock and Roundtop Shelter via LT, Johnson.** Montpelier Section. Rte. 15 across Lamoille Suspension Bridge to Roundtop Shelter. Moderate, 6 miles. Steve Lightholder, (802) 479-2304.

11/10: **Hike North Branch Park area, Montpelier.** Montpelier Section. Explore North Branch Park from the river to Sparrow Farm, including a new interpretive trail along the North Branch. Easy, 4 miles. Reidun and Andrew Nuquist, (802) 223-3550.

11/12: **Hike in Brushwood Community Forest, West Fairlee.** Ottaquechee Section. Moderate, 3 miles. Heinz and Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129.

11/17: **Hike AT, Pomfret.** Ottaquechee Section. Hike Pomfret Rd. to Cloudland Rd., then on old logging road. Moderate, 5 miles. Debbie Marcus, (802)457-9047.

11/17: **Hike in Shelburne Farms, Shelburne.** Montpelier Section. Enjoy the fields, woods, and views of Lake Champlain on the grounds of historic Shelburne Farms. Easy, 7 miles. Reidun and Andrew Nuquist, (802) 223-3550.

NOVEMBER

11/2 & 3: **Trail work weekend on LT.** Brattleboro Section. Beginning at Rte. 30. Bring pack frames, shovels, hoes and clippers if you have them. Mark Brown, (802) 258-0832.

11/2: **Work Hike on LT to Bamforth Ridge Shelter, Duxbury.** Montpelier Section. All abilities. 3-4 miles round trip. Fall walk-thru. Bring lunch. Wear sturdy boots, work clothes and gloves. Fred Jordan, (802) 223-3935 or trails@gmc montpelier.org.

11/2: **Hike to Griffith Lake via old woods road, Peru.** Ottaquechee Section. Last day of Daylight Saving Time. Easy, 5.3 miles, 480′ elevation gain. Dick Andrews, (802) 885-3201.

11/3: **Climb Sugarloaf Mtn., Benton Range, NH.** Ottaquechee Section. Difficult, 3.4 miles, 1300′ elevation gain. Heinz and Inge Trebitz, (802) 785-2129.

DAVE HARDY

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE
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I hereby make application for membership in the BENNINGTON
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Autumn is Hunting Season

Hikers should be aware of hunters and wear blaze orange in the woods during the fall. Blaze orange clothing should be visible from both the front and back; it is especially important during the busiest seasons. Avoid wearing brown or white, the colors of a deer. Dress your dog with bright bandanas or a blaze orange vest. Wave to make your presence known to hunters, but don't speak unless they speak first. If they are quietly hunting please do not disturb them. Hunting is allowed along the entire Long Trail and Appalachian Trail in Vermont. Be especially careful in valleys and near roads and trailheads.

The busiest hunting seasons are:

2013 Youth Deer Weekend: November 9–10

Bear Season: September 1–November 24

Rifle Deer Season: November 16–December 1

For a complete list of Vermont hunting and trapping seasons from September through December, see www.vtfishandwildlife.com

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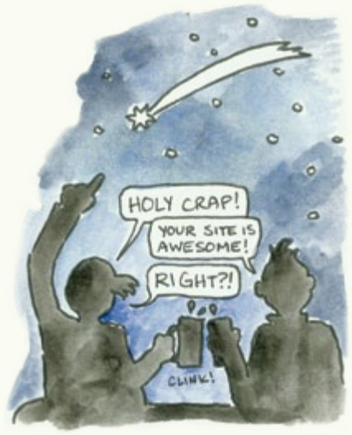
NIKA MEYERS

Emily Benning
Uber-creative GMC Caretaker

Since reaching middle age, I've become fascinated with how adventurous and accomplished young people are today. By young, I mean early- to mid-twenties. People like Emily Benning.

Emily and I first met the afternoon she was heading out, armed with a GPS and the pack on her back to thru-hike the Long Trail before starting her second season as a GMC caretaker. I started to notice how the mention of her name by coworkers was accompanied by a slow, in-the-know smile, followed by: "She's the best," or "Emily is hilarious," or "Have you seen her cartoons?" Clearly, we need to share Emily with you.

A Vermont native, Emily left the state to earn a degree in plant science and horticulture at Cornell University. With the economy tanking, she worked at a chemical research lab—not exactly her dream job: "Eventually I realized that I didn't like my job much, and I was getting fat, pale, lazy and depressed spending all my time indoors surrounded by hazardous waste. After some serious thought on the subject of what makes me happy, I quit my job, sold just about everything I owned but my dog, kayak and car, and moved back to Vermont to spend my days running around in the woods and drawing pictures. Now I split



my time between working for the GMC and getting a degree in animation and illustration at Lyndon State College."

In middle school she designed the program for a concert, and incorporated drawings of her classmates. The audience delighted in matching kids to their two-dimensional counterparts. Their reaction made a strong impression, which encouraged her to continue drawing. "The fact that I, an uber-nerdy twelve-year-old with bad bangs and glasses, had provided entertainment for several hundred people with just a marker and a piece of printer paper felt like a superpower," says Emily. As she learns animation, the superpower sensation from middle school has intensified: "I've been making my cartoons move, and that's been both awesome and a little disturbing, because it's like playing God with two-dimensional beings."

Her love for art extends beyond cartoons, but the joy cartoons provide others draws her back to them. According to Emily, cartoons are often dismissed as childish and simplistic, but that's what makes them so wonderful to her. "Everyone has one or two little quirks that make them instantly recognizable as a cartoon. Maybe they always wear the same orange Crocs, slouch a certain way, have an epic moustache, or favor horizontally striped sweaters. People love to recognize themselves in things, and being cartoon-ified lets us laugh at ourselves over things we may never have noticed. I think it's absolutely magical that I can make some marks on a piece of paper and someone else can look at it and experience happiness."

Hikers often keep trail journals, jotting down memorable moments. Some journals include simple illustrations. Few are as colorful and interesting as Emily's, though. Hers is a rare and humorous account of trail life as a GMC caretaker. Some subjects are immediately recognizable as GMC personalities—Dave Hardy, director of trail programs, wearing those

Caretaker Emily Benning

orange Crocs and that orange hoodie; or 2012 lead Camel's Hump summit caretaker Kevin Hudnell wearing his hiking kilt, tearing down a mountain trying to escape a thunderstorm.

Emily's caretaking at Sterling Pond, Taft Lodge and Camel's Hump has provided her with plenty of creative inspiration. "The mountains have a way of giving you exactly what you're searching for, especially if you head out not quite knowing what that is….These woods are full of endless things to see and draw and do, and you can hike the same trail every morning, but still come back every afternoon with a different story. It's that unending series of little adventures and small wonders that keeps me doodling."

This self-described nerdy kid has developed into a strong, determined and generous young woman who did volunteer work during her thru-hike in tough conditions. "I carried a GPS that tracked every last inch of the trek, in what I have been told is the first one-shot, GMC-sanctioned GPS mapping of the entire Long Trail," says Emily. "It took me thirty days. On twenty-six of those days it rained, and on the other four it snowed." I hope she knows how grateful our stewardship staff is.

"My volunteering actually earned me my trail name," she says. "Since I carried the GPS on the chest strap of my pack, enough people thought it looked like a communicator beacon from Star Trek that jokes were constantly being made about me beaming them up. By the end of the first day I had been dubbed Scotty."

Are there parallels between hiking and art? In Emily's mind the biggest similarity is this: "There are days when hiking is easy: the sun is shining; your hiking boots feel like the winged sandals of Hermes, and you plow through the miles like a thoroughbred stallion…The same is true with art: you're brimming with creative energy, all your pencils are sharp, and the colors mix exactly as you want them to. On these days, everything is awesome and you question why you didn't start doing this sooner.

"But there are also days where everything is unbelievably awful. With thru-hiking, it's probably raining; your butt is chafed raw, your sleeping bag is growing mold, and you have to start your day putting on a cold wet shirt, cold wet pants, and colder wetter socks before slogging along in monsoon conditions for eight hours or so with no foreseeable chance of drying out. In art, those are the days when you dump ink all over a piece as you finish the last lines, the hands you draw look like they've been mangled in a factory accident, your pencil lead keeps breaking, and you suddenly forget how to draw a circle."

Art is often called a labor of love. So is caretaking. Emily adds, "Even when we're broke, cold, hungry and generally miserable, we somehow still convince ourselves that we love what we're doing, and find a way to keep moving forward."

So what's down the road for Scotty? Will she boldly go where no wo(man) has gone before? If Emily had her way, she would always spend summers digging drainage ditches and working on her farmer tan. "If I have to move on to other pursuits, I've got my fingers crossed that I can make a living doing illustration. If not…well, I suppose there's always the Appalachian Trail."

—Jocelyn Hebert,
Long Trail News editor

TWO BY TWO... HANDS OF BLUE...
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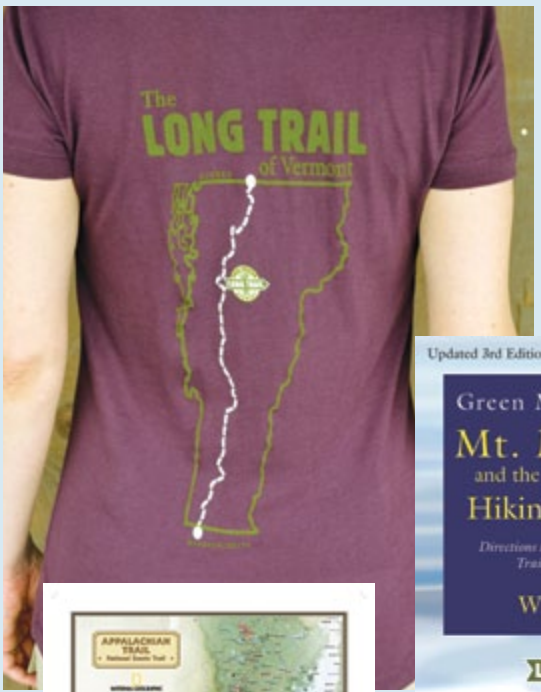

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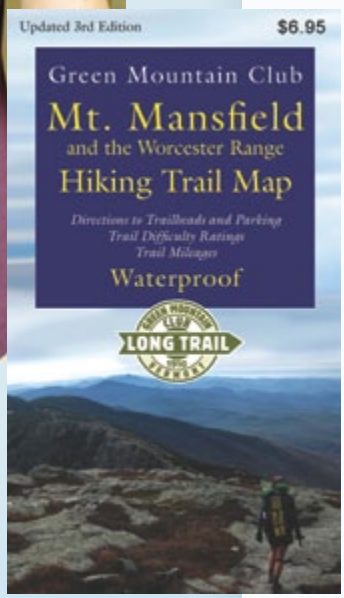

Revised! Mt. Mansfield Waterproof Hiking Trail Map with the Worcester Range

Now available! The popular, full-color, pocket-sized Mount Mansfield map has been revised and expanded. We hit the trails with a GPS in hand to update mileage on and near Mount Mansfield and the Worcester Range. This edition includes the Long Trail relocation through Smugglers Notch which will establish a new route near the soon-to-be renovated historic Barnes Camp. Worcester Range trails are shown on the back side of the map and include Stowe Pinnacle and Hunger Mountain.

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New! Appalachian Trail Poster Map

National Geographic's wall map of the Appalachian Trail is ideal for fans and hikers of this magnificent national scenic trail. Developed in cooperation with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, this beautiful poster, measuring 48"x18", shows the entire length of the trail from Maine to Georgia. A unique elevation profile highlights the trail's peaks and valleys and an informative mileage chart shows the distance between key locations. Super gift for anyone who has hiked the AT or dreams of doing so!

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